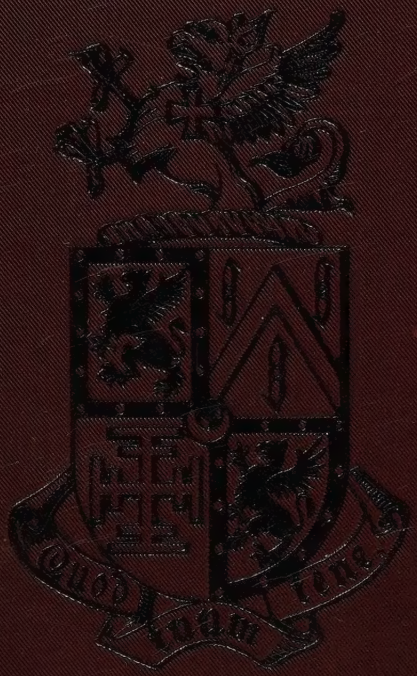
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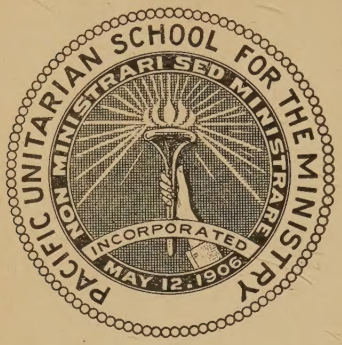

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS.

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Vol. 2. The Vicars of Rochdale. Part II. *pp.* 201–391.

Vol. 3. Lancashire and Cheshire Wills and Inventories at Chester, with an Appendix of Abstracts of Wills now Lost or Destroyed. Transcribed by the late Rev. G. J. PICCOPE, M.A. Edited by J. P. EARWAKER, M.A., F.S.A. *pp.* x. 262.

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Vol. 5. The Rectors of Manchester, and the Wardens of the Collegiate Church of that Town. By the late Rev. F. R. RAINES, M.A. Edited by J. E. BAILEY, F.S.A. Part I. The Rectors; Warden Huntingdon to Warden Chaderton. *pp.* xx. 100.

Vol. 6. The Rectors of Manchester, and the Wardens of the Collegiate Church of that Town. Part II. Warden Dee to Warden Herbert. *pp.* 101–206.

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Vol. 7. The Old Church and School Libraries of Lancashire. With Bibliographical and other Illustrations. By RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE. *pp.* xiii. 215.

Vol. 8. The History of the Parish of Poulton-le-Fylde. By HENRY FISHWICK, F.S.A. *pp.* 232.

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Vol. 17. The History of the Church and Manor of Wigan. Part III. By the Hon. and Rev. CANON BRIDGEMAN. *pp.* 461–684.

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Vol. 23. Lives of the Fellows of the College of Manchester. Part II. By the late F. R. Raines, M.A. Edited by FRANK RENAUD, M.D. With two illustrations. *pp.* 211–398.

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Vol. 24. The Minutes of the Manchester Presbyterian Classis, 1646–1660. Part III. Edited by WM. A. SHAW, M.A. *pp.* 283–464. *(Conclusion.)*

Vol 25. The History of the Parish of St. Michaels-on-Wyre. By HENRY FISHWICK, F.S.A. *pp.* 268.

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Vol. 28. Lancashire and Cheshire Wills and Inventories at Chester, 1572 to 1696; with an Appendix of Lancashire and Cheshire Wills and Inventories proved at York or Richmond, 1542 to 1649. Edited by J. P. EARWAKER, M.A., F.S.A. *pp.* x. 252.

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Vol. 30. The Poems of John Byrom. Edited by A. W. WARD, LITT.D., HON. LL.D. Vol. I., Miscellaneous Poems, Part II. *pp.* 265–603.

Vol. 31. Materials for the History of the Church of Lancaster. Part II. Edited by W. O. ROPER. *pp.* 259–529.

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Vol. 32. Notes on the Churches of Cheshire. By the late Sir Stephen Glynne. Edited by REV. CANON ATKINSON. *pp.* iv. 152.

Vol. 33. The Note Book of the Rev. Thomas Jolly, with Extracts from the Church Book of Altham and Wymondhouses. Edited by HENRY FISHWICK, F.S.A. *pp.* xxxii. 261. *(Three plates.)*

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Vol. 35. The Poems of John Byrom. Edited by A. W. WARD, LITT.D., HON. LL.D. Vol. II., Sacred Poems, Part II. *pp.* 345–676.

FIFTEENTH YEAR (1896–7).

Vol. 36. The Minutes of the Bury Presbyterian Classis, 1647–1657. Part I. Edited by WM. A. SHAW, M.A. *pp.* iii. 136.

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19370

MINUTES

OF THE

Bury Presbyterian Classis,

1647–1657.

EDITED BY

WILLIAM A. SHAW, M.A.

PART I.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
1896.

Printed by Charles E. Simms,
Manchester.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE volume of which the first part is now issued is intended to comprise the following Records :—

1.—The Minutes of the Second (Bury or Bolton) Classis of the Province of Lancaster, 1647, March 25, to 1657, May 11.

2.—The Minutes of a Nottingham Association, 1656, June 4, to 1660, June 6. (Appendix I.)

3.—The Minutes of a Bodmin (Cornwall) Association styling itself the Association of the Ministers of the middle division of Cornwall, and dating 1655, September 7, to 1658–9, January 5. (Appendix II.)

The latter two records are so brief, extending only over 36 pages, that it is hoped their inclusion in the publications of a Society dealing primarily with the counties of Lancashire and Cheshire will not be grudged.

The bearing of these documents on the question of the fortunes and nature of the Presbyterian movement

during the Civil War period, and under the Commonwealth, will be treated in the Introduction which will be prefixed to Part II.

With regard to the locality of the records here printed for the first time:

1.—The Bury Minutes.

The only original of this document now existant is contained in one of the Walker *MSS.* at the Bodleian (folio volume, marked c. 10, lettered "Cornish Sequestrations"). The volume opens with notes on the Devonshire clergy. It also contains, up to p. 45, some papers relating to Sarum. Pp. 45-80 contain the Bury Minutes. The rest of the volume consists of account books (dating 1647 +) relating to Committee of the county of Cornwall.

Walker's autograph note on the first page of the Bury Minutes is as follows:—

> "*The Proceedings of the Second Class for Lancaster. Mr. Gipps of Bury, near Manchester, communicated to me a transcript of these Proceedings (but not done by an accurate hand), and this is a transcript from that transcript, not done by an accurate hand neither.*"

Many searches and enquiries have been made for the lost original, but fruitlessly as yet. My own transcript was made from one executed for the late Mr. J. E.

Bailey, but I have throughout collated it with the Bodleian *MS.*

2.—The original of the Nottingham Records is a very small quarto *MS.* in the possession of the Trustees of the High Pavement Chapel, Nottingham. The contents of the *MS.* are explained in the note prefixed to Appendix I., where also my thanks to the Rev. J. Harwood are expressed for every facility afforded me in the work of transcription.

3.—The original *MS.* of the Cornwall Records is in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and is preserved in the library of that Society at Tremont Street, Boston, U.S.A. The *MS.* itself is a small sheep or calf-bound book, about 5 × 3½ inches, containing about 200 pages, many of them blank, and most of the rest taken up with the records of a later association of ministers, which met at Cambridge, New England, 1690-1704.

The book was probably taken to America by the Rev. Charles Morton, as explained in the note prefixed to Appendix II.

The present transcript was kindly made by the Rev. C. H. Wells, Ph.D., Professor of the Minnesota State University, to whom my warmest thanks are due.

W. A. S.

ERRATA.

P. 5. Mr. C. H. Firth has pointed out that the identification of John Okey the elder (footnote 7) with the regicide Colonel is impossible, as the latter was executed in 1662.

P. 35, l. 6. *For* "said" *read* "said [*sic*, for sad]."

The Second Classis in the Province of the County of Lancaster,

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF BURY, BOLTON, MIDDLETON, ROCHDALE, RADCLIFFE, AND DEANE.

Convened according to Ordinance of Parliament at Bury, año Dñi 1647.

Minutes of the Second Classis of the Province of Lancaster.

Apud Bury.

THE FFIRST MEETINGE, March y^e^ 25^th^, año Dñi 1647.

There appeared Mr. Horrocks, minister of Deane; Henri Seddon[1] and Giles Greene,[2] elders.

[1] Seddon, Henry, of Heaton, yeoman, elder for Deane. His name occurs among the protestors (164½) in Heaton in the parish of Deane; nominated an elder by the parliamentary ordinance (*Manchester Minutes*, p. 7), attends the classis up to Feb. 165¾. He was amongst the jurors in the commission for the parochial survey of Radcliffe, Bolton, Rivington, and Bury, 1650. (Record Society, vol. i. p. 29.) See Scholes' *Bolton*, p. 429, for a Captain Seddon, present at the Earl of Derby's execution. The will of Hy. Seddon of Westhead in Lathom, husbandman, is preserved at Chester. Dated 21 April, 1671, proved 29 May, 1671. Inventory taken 27 April, 1671. "To Margreat my wife, £20 and the feather bed, etc.; To Thomas Swift my son-in-law, £40;" mentions "my grand-child Catrin Swift, my daughter Ellen, wife of James Reatheram and her 6 children." Total of Inventory £107 7*s.* 6*d.* See also Act Book (Chester Registry) for Henry Seddon, late of Overford near Warrington. Letters of administration granted 16 Nov., 1683, to Henry Booth to the sole use of Henry, William, and Margaret, children of the deceased. 16 Nov., 1683, letters of tuition of the persons and goods of the above Henry aged 13 years, William aged 11 years, and Margaret aged 9 years, granted to the abovesaid Henry Booth. Total inventory valued 24 Sept., 1683, £73 5*s.* 3*d.*

[2] Green, Giles, of West Houghton, yeoman, elder for Deane. He signs the protestation (164½) among the parishioners of Deane; was nominated an elder of the second classis by the parliamentary ordinance (*Man. Min.*, p. 7), and attends irregularly up

Mr. Alt, minist[r] of Bury, with Peter Houlte, Esq.,[3] James Leech,[4] and Arthur Smethurst.[5]

to April, 1654. He then removed to Atherton, where he became, in December, 1656, an elder of the fourth classis. The will of Giles Greene of Atherton, yeoman, dated 23 April, 1661, proved 23 June, 1663, exists at Chester. It mentions Edward Greene his eldest son, Isabel his wife, a son Richard, the children of John ffoulk and Robert Hampton, and "the children of my daughter Rebecca, now the wife of William Younge. I intreat Mr. Tildsley, minister of God's word at Deane Church, and Mr. Henry Mollyneux to be overseers of the same. I likewise desire my brother-in-law Peter Smith and Richard Astley of the Bankes to see my goods divided according to this my will." To the poor of Atherton 20[s], to the poor of Westhaughton 20[s], to the poor of Tildsley and Shakerley 6[s] 8[d], to the poor in Astley 6[s] 8[d], to the poor in Bedford 6[s] 8[d], to the poor in Penington 6[s] 8[d], to the poor in Westleigh 6[s] 8[d]. Inventory of farming stock and household goods 1 May, 1661, total £142 19*s.* 7*d.* See Rec. Soc., vol. xviii., for a Giles Green of Stockport (will dated 1682), and *ibid.*, vol. xx., for a Giles Green of Bolton, inventory dated 1701.

[3] Holt, Peter, generosus, elder for Bury, occurs among the protestors in Bury parish (164½). Attends as an elder for Bury only up to Sept., 1649. Was a juror in the church survey of the hundred of Salford 13 Nov., 1650 (Rec. Soc., vol. i. *passim*). Occurs several times as a juror in inquisitions, 1624 (Rec. Soc., vol. xvii.), and was assessed in the subsidy of 18 James I. at 8*s.* In the will of Hy. Bury of Bury, clerk, 1634, he is described as Peter Holt of Bridge, and named one of the feoffees of the free school which the testator wished to form at Bury (Chetham Society, vol. liv. p. 180). Will of Peter Holt, Somerset House, Brent. 91. Dated 21 June, 1651; proved 10 Aug., 1653. "I, Peter Holt of Bridge in the parish of Dean, gentleman." My son Roger executor. One third my goods to Jane my wife, one third to John, Richard, Thomas, Abigail, my children equally; my mother and sister £10. Mentions also daughters Mary and Grace, and a son Daniel. Roger to pay each of the daughters £50.

[4] Leach, James, elder for Bury, signs the protestation among the parishioners of Bury town 164½. Attends the classis as an elder up to May, 1651. Will at Chester, dated 9 Nov., 1668; proved 21 May, 1669. "I, James Leach of Bury, chapman;" one [t]hird my goods to my wife Katherine; one third to my three children (Daniel and Peter named). Inventory taken 16 Dec. 1668, total £119 3*s.* 5*d.* See also Rec. Soc., vol. xviii., for a James Leach of Tottington (Bury), will dated 1697.

[5] Smethurst, Arthur, of Heape, gentleman, elder for Bury, signs the protestation in Bury parish along with Arthur Smethurst, junior. Named an elder for the second classis in the parliamentary ordinance (*Man. Min.*, p. 7), attends the classis assiduously up to April, 1655. Should have been one of the defendants in the action of John Lightfoot v. Others, Hilary 165$\frac{8}{9}$ (see under Hardman James), but is spoken of in the depositions as recently dead. The will of Arthur Smethurst, junior, of Farnworth, woollen weaver, dated 19 July, 1691, was proved 24 July, 1700 (Chester) — my daughter Mary and her children, my step-daughter Alice Wilson of Rochdale. Inventory 22 May, 1700, total £20 3*s.* 2*d.*

Mr. Harper, minister of Boulton, with John Andrewes,[6] John Okey,[7] John Crompton,[8] Roger Roscow,[9] elders.

[6] Andrewes, John, gentleman, elder for Bolton, signs the protestation (164½) among the inhabitants of Little Lever, Bolton. Nominated an elder of the second classis by the parliamentary ordinance (*Man. Min.*, p. 7), attends through the whole existence of the classis. Record Office Orders and Decrees, Duchy of Lancaster, vol. xxxii. p. 410. Maules, 7 Nov. 1637, inter Thomam Andrew de London tinctor: Heath Andrewe vid. et Johān Andrewe infant: fil et hered. Nicholai Andrew quer, et Johem Halliwell, Adam ffernside, George Ainsworth, et Radulf Leaver defendentes: concerning a messuage and 12 acres in the tenure of Adam ffernside, and other lands conveyed to the Andrewes by the Levers 3 Junii, 20 Jacob. I., which conveyance the court held to be good.

Oliver Heywood several times mentions staying at Little Lever Hall with Mr. Andrews (*Diaries*, vol. i. p. 259), Mistress Andrew having been the person who held him when he was baptised (vol. iii. p. 281). Heywood speaks of him as well accounted of for religion (vol. ii. p. 141). See *ibid.*, p. 196, for death of Mrs. Eliz. Andrews in May, 1686, "was not sick 24 hours."

"Mr. John Andrews of Little Leaver died Dec. (1679?) aged 64. Had been captain in Parliament's army." (*Northowram Reg.*, p. 61.) A son of the same, apparently, died May, 1712 (*ibid.*, p. 261). In the act for incorporating the governors of the free school of Bolton, John Andrews of Little Leaver, gentleman, was nominated one of the feoffees (*Courier*, *Local Gleanings*, vol. iii. p. 344). (See also *ibid.*, vol. ii. p. 242.) Newcome speaks of the elder as honest Captain Andrewes *Autobiog.*, p. 230) and as dead in 1680. See the pedigree of the Andrewes of Little Lever in *Dugdale's Visit.*, p. 8, where the details given of John Andrews (ætat. 45, 11 March, 1644) do not correspond with the extract from the *Northowram Register* (*supra*). I have been unable to find his will. For possible references see Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xxxi. pp. 303, 308.

[7] Okey, John, elder for Bolton. See the details of his life on the well-known tombstone in Bolton Churchyard. Born in London, 1608, moved to Bolton, 1629, married Mary, daughter of James Crompton of Breightmet, 1635, who died, 1655, four sons, six daughters; died 29 April, 1684. In the copy of this inscription in the *Gent. Mag.*, 1784, p. 84, the arms are given. Okey signed the protestation of 164½ among the inhabitants of Great Bolton, but was not nominated an elder in the parliamentary ordinance. He attended the classis from first to last with great regularity, which is all the more surprising as he was in very active and trusted employ as a colonel in the Parliamentary army. See numerous references to him in the State Papers and newspapers of the time. He was one of the Bolton governors of the Chetham Hospital (Scholes' *Bolton*, p. 181), and signs the vestry book of his adopted church almost without intermission up to June, 1671. Alice Crompton, sister to Okey's wife, was married to Vicar Wm. Gregge (1630). See Rec. Soc., vol. i. p. 31, for an account of the lands he leased of Bolton Church. There are very numerous references in Oliver Heywood's *Diaries* to "my brother Okey" (see all the vols. *passim*). Heywood's

Mr. Bath, minister of Rochdale, with Mr. Wickins[10] and Robert Pares,[11] elders.

second wife was Abigail Crompton, the sister of Okey's wife. It was due to Okey's magnanimity that the Earl of Derby was buried in the Derby Chapel at Ormskirk. See *Stanley Papers*, Chet. Soc., vol. lxvii. pp. ccxl. and cxc. His will (1684 at Chester) has decayed through damp.

[8] (*Page* 5) Crompton, John, yeoman, elder for Bolton, attends the classis intermittently up to November, 1656, was one of the Bolton feoffees of the Chetham Hospital (Scholes' *Bolton*, p. 181). There were numerous Cromptons in Darcy Lever and Breightmet, and it is not easy to decide among them. See Raines' *MSS.*, vol. vi. pp. 30, 55, 64; vol. xi. p. 221. But the elder was probably John Crompton of Hacking in Darcy Lever, yeoman, and the son of Ellis Crompton of Darcy Lever, gent, who was fined £10 for refusing knighthood in 1631, and some years previously (July 28, 1620) was punished with his son for refusing, at Bolton Church, to take the sacrament kneeling. (Scholes' *Bolton*; Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xxii. p. 314.) The Cozen Crompton of Heywood's *Diaries* was John Crompton of Breightmet, who married, 1690, Heywood's sister Elizabeth Cobborn of Ratcliffe Bridge (*Diaries*, vol. ii. p. 135). Another sister, the eldest, Hannah Heywood, was married to Thomas Crompton of Breightmet in 1643. This man is the "Brother" Crompton of the *Diaries*. There is no such intimate reference to the Crompton of Hacking, but see *Diaries*, vol. iii. p. 191, for an account of the suicide of Grace, wife of James Ferniside, and daughter of the Bolton elder. He was one of the Governors of the Free School of Bolton (*Local Gl.*, vol. iii. p. 344), being described as a "gentleman" (1656). See also Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xxii. p. 439; vol. xxiv. p. 298.

16 May, 1670, will, with inventory of the goods of John Crompton, late of Hacking, deceased, exhibited and administration granted to Ciceley the relict and one of the executors, Henry Crompton, the other executor, being dead. (Act Book, Chester Registry. Will and inventory now missing.)

[9] (*Page* 5) Roscow, Roger, elder for Bolton, signs the protestation of 164½ among the inhabitants of Tonge (Bolton parish). Does not attend the classis beyond January, 16$\frac{4}{5}$$\frac{8}{0}$. Oliver Heywood notices him as approving of the conduct of his father, Richard Heywood, in the quarrel about the Sacrament with the Bolton eldership, but as hanging back "from policy or cowardice" (*Diaries*, vol. i. p. 28). (For a possible reference to his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Hy. Lathom of Whiston, see *Dugdale's Visitation*, p. 177.)

At Chester, "infra" will of Roger Roscowe of Westhaughton, webster, dated 26 Nov., 1672, proved 5 Feb., 167$\frac{2}{3}$. My son William, my daughter Jane, and my brother Thomas. Inventory dated 15 January, 167$\frac{2}{3}$, £29 0*s.* 6*d.*

[10] Wickins, John, elder for Rochdale. The well-known master of the Manchester Free School. The son of John Wickyns of Tylehurst, co. Berks., who was nominated by Laud headmaster of the Rochdale Grammar School, and Vicar of Rochdale 11 June, 1638 to 1643. (Fishwick's *Rochdale*, and *Vicars of Rochdale*, pp. 93, 273.) In 164½ the father or son signs the protestation among the inhabitants of Castleton in the parish of Rochdale.

Mr. Pike, minister of Radcliffe, with Richard Hardman[12] and Richard Walker,[13] elders.

Wickins only attended the Bury Classis up to October, 1648. He subsequently moved to Manchester, and was master of the Grammar School there from at least 1649 to 1675, and an elder of the first classis from November, 1654, onwards. See note *Man. Min.*, p. 216, and Mr. Bailey's account of Wickyns, *Lanc. and Ches. Antiq. Soc.*, vol. iii. p. 140. Both Martindale and Newcome attest greatest appreciation for him as a teacher. See the latter's *Diary* for his distress at the prospect of Wickins resigning the mastership in 1663. See also Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xxxvi. p. 66.

Chester Register. Will of John Wickins, M.A., of Manchester, dated 16 May, 1676; proved 4 May, 1677. My daughter Alice £100, my daughter Elizabeth £100, my daughter Ann £100, my daughter Mary 40*s.* for her filial portion, and the reason I give her no more is because my brother-in-law Ralph Wood of Ripponden, co. York, clerk, hath promised to take care and provide for her as his own child. Residue to my son Edmund. Executors my daughter Alice and my loving friend Edward Greaves of Manchester, apothecary. Inventory Dec. 11, 1676, £501 18*s.* 3*d.* (including money due by bonds £385).

[11] (*Page* 6) Pares, Robert, elder for Rochdale. Possibly son of Robert Pares of Rochdale, yeoman, who died 1624. Nominated an elder of the second classis by the parliamentary order "Robert Pares of Rochdale, gentleman," but only attends the classis up to April, 1649. See Rec. Soc., vol. viii. p. 245, for a dispute concerning a messuage inter Pares et Pares. The will of Jane Pares of Rochdale, widow, is dated April 16, 1656 (proved 2nd January, $166\frac{9}{7}$). "My 3 daughters Elizabeth, Sarah, Mary, my mother Mary Thompson, my sister Harvie, my son James, a minor." It appears from this will that Elizabeth Pares the daughter subsequently married Joshua Stopford, clerk. In 1678 Sarah Pares married Daniel, son of Henry Newcome (*Autob.*, p. 228.)

[12] Hardman, Richard, elder for Radcliffe, signs the protestation ($164\frac{1}{2}$) among the inhabitants of Radcliffe, and also as churchwarden; was nominated an elder of the second classis by the parliamentary ordinance (being mis-called Roger Hardman of Radcliffe, yeoman, *Man. Min.*, p. 7), attends the classis meetings throughout. See 12th meeting for his evidence and that of his son Richard and wife Grace against Rev. Mr. Pollitt. For the Hardmans of the 18th and 19th centuries see *Pal. Note Book*, vol. iv. p. 167. It is almost impossible to disentangle those of the 17th century. See *Local Gleanings*, vol. i. p. 85, *Reliquary*, vol. xv. p. 190, material in Rochdale Free Library, and Raines' *MSS.*, vol. vii. p. 31; vol. viii. p. 220; vol. ix. pp. 221, 225; vol. xxxi. p. 401. There were Hardmans of Bolton-le-Moors, Bury, Prestwich, and Hollinwood, and an ancestral line runs through the Preston Guild rolls. (Rec. Soc., vol. ix., and Fishwick's *Rochdale*, p. 302.)

Chester Registry. "21 April, 1670, will with inventory of the goods of Richard Hardman late of Radcliffe, co. Lanc., clothier, deceased, exhibited and administration granted to Agnes the relict, one of the executors, power reserved to John Hardman, the other executor." (Act Book — the will and inventory being now missing.)

[13] Walker, Richard, elder for Radcliffe, signs the protestation ($164\frac{1}{2}$) as one of the

Delegated and sent from y^e^ several elderships of this classis.

1.—Mr. Harper, chosen moderator, begun w^th^ prayer.

2.—Upon complaint made w^th^ a petic̃on and articles exhibitted against Mr. Thomas Blackburn, minist^r^ att Rivington, by Richard Kershawe,[14] George Shaw,[15] William Hopton, Richard

constables of Radcliffe parish. Attends the classis with great regularity throughout. There was quite a numerous family of Walkers resident in Whitfield within Pilkington, in Prestwich parish, who habitually resorted to Radcliffe instead of their own parish church (Rec. Soc., vol. i. p. 30). Will at Chester dated 23 Sept., 1691, proved 7 April, 1692. "I Richard Walker the elder of Radcliffe, yeoman. Whereas I am possessed of the remainder of a term of 99 years determinable upon 3 lives in certain closes, etc., in Pilkington, called the Shore field, the Bank under it, the Wheat field or Bank, the Bean field, the Dead eye, the Warth, and the half-acre lying on the other side the water, 5 acres in all, heretofore purchased by me of Thursland Smethurst"; John Walker my son to be tenant thereof at rent of £4 to be paid to Elizabeth my wife and executrix until Richard Walker son of Richard Walker my eldest son, deceased, shall be 21; then the lease to be devised to said Richard on payment of £30 to my wife and £30 to John Walker. To John Greenhalgh and William Walker my sons-in-law, to Sarah Hinde my daughter, and my son William, 12^d^ apiece, all residue to Elizabeth my wife and executrix.

[14] Kershawe, Richard, signs protestation of 164½ among the inhabitants of Anglezarke, in the parish of Bolton, as "churchwarden of Rivington and Anglezarke." Inventory at Chester of goods of Richard Kershaw of Anglezarke, taken 18 Nov., 1664; total of farming stock and household goods, etc., £186 3*s.* 6*d.* Exhibited 7 Dec., 1664, and administration granted to Margaret, relict, and Jonathan son of Richard Kershawe.

[15] Shaw, George, yeoman, originally of Blackburne, among the protestors of Anglezarke in 164½. The benefactor of the church of Rivington (see Rec. Soc., vol. i., and vol. xii. p. 217, for his composition for knighthood in 1631). Will at Somerset House (Grey, vol. ii.), dated 29 Oct., 1651; proved 23 January following. Mentions my brother Robert, my nephew Robert and his children Lawrence, Rob., Geo., Philip, and Anne; my nephew Edmund and his 4 children, Edmund, Mary, and Dorothy; my nephew John Shaw, my niece Sibl' Clarke, my nephew Walter Shaw and Susan Haworth his sister, my nephews John and Alexander ffeildinge, my cozen Goodwin's wife, and my cozen Richard and Geo. Shaw; numerous other recipients among them. A bond of £10 to Leonard Clayton, vicar, upon condic'on he come once a year to preach at Rivington the Sunday after midsummer day to put the people in mind they make good use of the gifts bestowed on the church. To the poor of Blackburne £20, ditto of Rivington and Anglezarke £100 to be bestowed on lands, and yearly value to be dealt on Peter's day and Michaelmas. Remainder of his wealth to be a stock for poor of Anglezarke and Rivington, to be loaned out to them without interest to help them to buy their houses on condition of easy repayment.

Taylor, Wm. Anderton,[16] and John Anderton, ordered that a sum̄ons bee issued out to require y^e^ said Mr. Blackburne to appeare before y^e^ classis April 22, next meeting.

Mr. Blackburne's articles.

Articles ag^t^ Mr. Thomas Blackburne, minister at Rivington, informed *ut supra.*

a He doth not attend his charge, but is many days absent, and sleights his congregation without publicke notice or private either in due time, and so itt cometh to passe y^t^ people loose their labour to church and are disappointed of the means, and some take occasion to drinke and prophane y^e^ Lords day. Witnesses—Richard Kershaw, Wm. Anderton.

b He neglects ordinarily the observation of the publicke fast. Witt^s^—Richard Kershaw and Wm. Anderton.

c He useth to kneele downe att his first comeing both into y^e^ deske and pulpitt. Witt^s^—George Shaw, John Anderton.

d We conceive he is not ordained minister in any lawfull manner. Wm. Jepson, George Shaw, witnesses.

e Nevertheless he ordinarily taketh upon him to baptize att Rivington. Wm. Anderton, Richard Kershaw, witt^s^.

f He hath baptized a child born of popish parence in the hundred of Lealand, and the father was absent. Witt^s^—John Anderton, Richard Kershaw.

g Wee conceive he hath not taken y^e^ Nationall Covenant. George Shaw, William [Andert]on, witt^s^.

[16] *Anderton, William*, of Rivington, husbandman. "Infra" will at Chester, dated 25 Aug., 1670, proved 9 Sept., 1670. Assigns his 21 years' lease in a close called the Sheephouse Brow to nephew John Isherwood; mentions Wm. Anderton my nephew, and Agnes Isherwood my sister, and Alice, daughter of Richard Taylor. To the poor in Rivington 20*s.* To John Walker, minister, 10*s.*, to Samuel Newton, minister, 10*s.* Total Inventory £33 14*s.* 4*d.* For the Andertons see pedigrees in Raines' *MSS.*, vol. iii. *passim*, vol. xxiii. pp. 97, 101, and vol. xxvii. p. 23, and *Dugdale's Visit.*, vol i.

h He useth to preach without prayinge before. George Shaw, Richard Taylor, witt^{s}.

i He useth to associate himselfe with profane company. George Shaw, John Anderton, Richard Taylor, witt^{s}.

j He hath testified his unwillingness to come to private dayes and conference, being several times desired. George Shaw, witness.

Deposition of witt^{s} upon oath upon these articles. Richard Kershaw and William Anderton, sworne and examined, saye and depose as to the second article that itt is true. George Shaw and John Anderton, sworne and examined, say and depose as to y^{e} third article that it is true. George Shaw and Richard Taylor, sworne and examined, saye and depose as to y^{e} 8th article that it is true. George Shaw, John Anderton, Richard Taylor, sworne and examined, saye as to y^{e} 9th article that itt is true. George Shaw, sworne and examined, sayth and deposeth as to the tenth article that itt is true.

3.—Taylor and Southworth's ffornication.

Upon complaint of Margret Southworth against Alexander Tayler of Blackroad, sum̄ons are ordred to be issued out to require y^{e} said Alexander and Margret to appeare att y^{e} next meeting.

4.—Upon complaint made against Mr. Arthur Guest of Boulton, for making clandestine marriages, itt is ordered that sum̄ons be issued out to require y^{e} said Mr. Gest to appear att y^{e} next meeting.

5.—That y^{e} two questions following be ꝑpounded to the consideraco̅n of the persons from several classes meeting att Preston, May y^{e} fourth, 1647.

Two questions propounded att Preston not answered.

(1) Whether malign^{ts} shall be admitted to y^{e} Lords Supper without acknowledgm^{t} of there faults, haveing had there hands in blood.

(2) When we are to begin to take notice of scandales, to debare others from y^e^ Lords Supper.[17]

Mr. Bath, minister of Rochdale, chosen moderator for y^e^ next meeting, w^ch^ is to be Aprill y^e^ 22^nd^, 1647.

The moderator ended w^th^ a prayer.

John Harper, moderator p tempore.

[17] *Scandal.* See 6th and 8th minutes of 5th meeting, *infra; Provincial Synod*, p. 22, and *Man. Min.*, p. 28.

The 1st of the three parliamentary ordinances (20 Oct., 1645) for the keeping of scandalous persons from the Sacrament, contained an "enumeration" or list of offences or scandals which would justify the exclusion of a person from the Supper. This list does not contain the offence in question (malignancy or royalism). The two subsequent ordinances, 5 March, $164\frac{5}{6}$, and 3 June, 1646, left the consideration of the extension of this list of offences to a lay body — in its final form, a parliamentary committee at Westminster. There was nothing to prevent the elders of the Bury classis or of the Provincial Synod discussing the points in the text, but it would be a mere discussion, and futile. They would not be able to act on their own conclusion without a reference of the matter to the parliamentary committee.

The second question raised testifies to the uncertainty in the minds of the professed Presbyterian clergy. Both in London and Lancashire they hesitated about accepting what they thought so poor an instalment of consistorial power, and were for a time undecided whether or not to refuse it *in toto* and decline to act, and wait for the parliament to endow them with a more unlimited jurisdiction. In the case of the Bury classis, however, the elders had begun the exercise of censure at the first meeting. They were thus at once brought to the larger question — how and when to consider of unenumerated or "other" scandals, with a view to excluding sinners. In the end the question worked itself out.

In the ordinances above mentioned, the scandals to be censurable were not to be of more than one year's standing. Hence the question raised in the 5th meeting as to "looking back." See minute 9, 6th meeting.

THE SECOND MEETING, April 22, año Dom̃ 1647.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Bath, minister of Rochdale, w^th^ Mr. John Wickins and John Scolfield,[1] eld^rs^.

Mr. Harper, minist^r^ of Bolton, w^th^ Mr. Richard Meadowcroft[2] and John Yates,[3] eld^rs^.

[1] Scolfield, John, elder for Rochdale, appears among the protestors in the township of Castleton (Rochdale parish) in 164½, and was nominated an elder of the second classis by the parliamentary ordinance ("John Scolfield of Castleton, yeoman." *Man. Min.*, p. 7). He attends the classis well up to April, 1654. There is quite a race of Scolfields in the district. See Fishwick's *Rochdale*, p. 365:

John Scolfield (of Whittaker).
|
Henry Skoffeld of the Whiteacre, gent., married Jane, before 1565.
|
Arthur, d. 12 Jan., 160½, of Whittaker, yeoman.

Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, John, Dorothy, Catherine.

Abraham, in 1626, conveyed Sheepbank, a farm close to Whittaker, to his brothers Isaac and John.

(Chester Registry.) Will of John Scolfield, senior, "very aged," of Goosland, Rochdale parish, dated 4 Feb., 165$\frac{6}{7}$; proved 20 April, 1661. Mentions "my grandchild James Hayward, a cripple, my youngest son Arthur, my eldest son John, and my wife (unnamed)."

Ibid. Will of John Scoalfield, yeoman, of Lower Wolstenholme, Rochdale parish, dated 1 Feb., 16$\frac{9}{70}$; proved 11 Aug., 1670. Mentions "my sons John, Henry, and Edward, my wife Alice, and Jane Chadwick, aunt to my son John." Total inventory, taken 27 May, 1670, £39 11*s.* 0*d.*

Ibid. Inventory of John Scolfield of Spotland Top, Rochdale parish, taken 27 Nov., 1674, total £16 10*s.* 2*d.* Jane Scholfeild, the relict, being aged and decrepit, renounced administration in favour of her son John.

There were Scholfields at Castleton (see Rec. Soc., vol xvii. p. 337), Spotland, Smalshaw; and see *Local Gleanings*, vol. iii. pp. 473–8, for the Scholefields of Scholefield Hall, of whom sprang the Captain James Scholefield of this period. See also Raines' *MSS.*, vol. v. pp. 4, 20.

[2] Meadowcroft, Richard, elder for Bolton. In the protestors' lists 164½, one of the name appears in the township of Breightmet, Bolton parish, and two others, senior and junior, in Birtle hamlet, Middleton parish. For the latter, described as Rich. Meadowcroft of Smethurst, see Rec. Soc., vol. i. pp. 26, 41; and *Dugdale's Visit.*, Chet. Soc., vol. lxxviii. p. 196. He died Oct. 1661 (Newcome's *Diary*, p. 11), and his son in 1675; letters of administration granted to his brother Francis Meadowcroft, gentleman, of Manchester, 25 Nov., 1675. (Chester Registry, Act Book, inventory now missing.) The Bolton elder was apparently the "R. M. de Brightmett, generosus," who was a

Mr. Pike, minister of Radcliffe, w^th^ Richard Walker, Robt. ffogg,[4] Rich^d^ Hardman, elders.

Mr. Alt, minister of Bury, w^th^ Peter Holte, Esq., and Arthur Smethurst, elders.

Mr. Walton, minister of Horridge, w^th^ Hugh Pare[5] and Wm. Tonge of Deane,[6] elders.

juror in the inquisition as to Radcliffe parish (Rec. Soc., vol. i. p. 291). He was churchwarden of Bolton in 1659, and a feoffee of the Gosnell lecture there (Scholes' *Bolton*, pp. 318, 320), and was very zealous in his attendance at the classis. Oliver Heywood notices in his *Diary*, vol. iii. p. 89, the sudden death of "Mrs. Meadowcroft of Breakmit, a gracious woman."

For evidence of a fourth of the name see Admon. Book (Somerset House), 1658, p. 317. "25 Nov^r^, 1658, issued forth letters of admin. to Esther, relict of Richard Meadowcroft, late of Bamford, co Lancaster, testator, deceased." For the Meadowcrofts generally see Raines' *MSS.*, vol. v. pp. 20, 224, 227, and vol. xvii. p. 49.

[3] (*Page* 12) Yates, John, elder for Bolton, seldom appears at the classis, and not after Feb., 164$\frac{8}{9}$. He does not appear among the numerous Yates's who took the protestation in Bolton.

(Somerset House) Admon. Book, 1655, p. 36: "12 Feb., 165$\frac{4}{5}$, letters of administration issued forth to George Yates, naturall and lawfull brother of John Yeates, late of Bolton, co. Lancaster, deceased, a bachelor, he being first sworn, etc." See also *Pal. Note Book*, vol. iv. p. 31, for a John Yeat of Irlam, buried June 13, 1674, and Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xxiii. p. 307, for Yates of Blackmore.

[4] Fogg, Robert, elder for Radcliffe, signs the protestation 164$\frac{3}{4}$, as one of the three constables of the parish of Radcliffe. Attends the classis very assiduously up to Dec., 1656. Ormerod describes him in the *Civil War Tracts* as a parliamentary agent. See Rigby's letter to speaker Lenthall, Oct., 1643, *ibid.* He was really in the employ of the Trustees for the maintenance of ministers, as a receiver or collector in the locality.

Will at Somerset House (Wootton, 342), dated 21 April, 1658; proved 18 May, 1658. I, Robert Fogg of Ratcliffe, husbandman. Mentions "my wife Margrett, who is to have one certain dwelling-house formerly belonging to Hugh Sharp in Ratcliffe, near to my own tenement, and my nephew James Fogg of Ratcliffe, who is to have reversion of my tenement, comprising 3 fields, the limed field, the hill, and the wheat field." Small legacies to Seddons and Haworths. See also Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xxvii. p. 123.

[5] Parr (Pare), Hugh, elder for Horridge (Deane), appears among the protestors of Kersley in the parish of Deane (164$\frac{3}{4}$), but seldom attended the classis (appears up to April, 1655). He was cousin to Nathan Walworth of Ringley. See *Pal. Note Book*, vol i. p. 4.

Will in Chester Registry, dated 12 Oct., 1676; proved 4 March, 167$\frac{7}{8}$. "I, Hugh Parr of Kearsley, yeoman. Whereas I stand lawfully seised in fee simple of a certain parcel of land, being a garden plot in Manchester, which was devised to me by Nathan

Delegated from y^e^ sev^r^all elderships.

Mr. Bath, y^e^ moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

1.—Mr. Guest of Boulton being summoned to appear, returned his answer hereunto annexed:

> Reverend,—I have long laboured under a lingering sicknes w^ch^ hath now brought me very lòw so that I am scarce able to goe into neighbors houses. I fear I cannot answer yo^r^ expectation for I weaken daylie, otherwise I professe I shoulde have been willing to have made sattisfac̃on for those things I have done amisse, and shall as farr as your discretions shall judge my weakness is able to undergoe. I am very willing to submitt myself to y^r^ censures.
>
> ARTHUR GUEST.

2.—Ordination of Mr. Peter Bradshaw to be minister at Cockey chappell.

> ffor p^r^paration thereunto Mr. Peter Bradshaw aged 28 yeares appeareinge, signifyed his desire to be ordained

Wallworth, late of London, deceased, I devise it to the same persons in the same way, etc., as I have enfeoffed my several tenements in Manchester and Kersley, by settlement of 11 May, 1674." To my grand-daughter Esther Booth, £10; Mary Lees, £4; Mary Parr, £20; my grand-sons John Booth, £5, and Hugh Parr all residue of money and debts, with reversion to Mary Parr; all residue of personal estate to my daughter Katherin, my daughter Mary, and my grand-daughter Esther Booth equally; my son-in-law John Scholes and John Taylor, executors, with others. Total inventory taken 24 January, 167$\frac{8}{7}$, £109 16*s.* 8*d.*

[6] (*Page* 13) Tonge, Wm., elder for Horridge (Deane), appears among the protestors of Farnworth in the parish of Deane, 164$\frac{1}{2}$. Attended the classis infrequently up to Oct., 1656, when he evidently removed to Ellenbrook, for which he appears as an elder in the Manchester classis, Aug., 1658, to June, 1660. For widow Tonge see Oliver Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. ii. p. 110. "My aunt Tongue, a precious but well-afflicted woman near Stret Gate, Bolton." *Ibid.*, vol. i. p. 253. See also Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xli. p. 354.

April 13, 1670. I was sent for to my dear and brave friend Wm. Tongue. (Newcome's *Autob.*)

Will in Chester Registry, dated 10 June, 1679; proved 21 May, 1680. "I, William Tounge of Little Hulton, co. Lanc., yeoman. My body to be buried in churchyard of Eccles where my ancestors have been laid. Residue of goods to Ellinn Tonge my wife for her and my daughter Annah and rest of my children, Thomas, Elizabeth, Mary, Annah." Mentions my brothers-in-law Thomas Crompton of Pilkenton, and Adam Gartside of Prestwich. Inventory 20 June, 1679, total £101 19*s.* 2*d.*

minister and prsented two certificates, ye one of his behavor ye other of his calleinge to officiate att Cockey Chappell, both wch ware received and approved of. Whereupon after his examinacõn in ye tongues and arts, he being found competently sufficient, itt was ordred that a scedule should be affixed to ye dore of ye sd Cockey Chappell signifieing yt if no due exception ware brought in against ye sd Mr. Peter Bradshaw yt there should proceeding be made unto his ordination att Cockey Chappell upon ye 12th day of May next following, wch day was appointed to be kept a fast by yt congregation.

Mr. Harper and Mr Pike to preach.

SOWERBY CERTIFICATE.

Certificate prsented to ye classis by Mr. Peter Bradshaw.

Sowerby, this 8th day of April, 1647.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed at ye request of or worthy and much respected friend and lately or schoolmastr Mr. Peter Bradshaw, doe certifie yt ye sd Mr. Bradshaw is a man well knowne unto us, having lived and resided amongst us for ye space of five years last past, demeaning himselfe honestly in his place and calling diligently and industriously to ye great content and commodity of those whoe have had occation to make use of him ; in his conversation blamelesse ; still associating himselfe with ye most pious and religious amongst us in publicke and in private, as also having joyned wth us publickly in ye nationall covenante and in private and psonal sufferings for ye cause of Christ and his kingdome.

Witnesse our hands ye day and yeare abovesaid.

James Robinson.	John Smith.
James Stansfielde.	George ffairbanke.
Edward ffirth.	Michael Earnshaw.
Isaacke ffarrer.	John Dearden.
Abraham Smith.	John Dixon.

AINSWORTH CERTIFICATE.

Ainsworth, this 20th of April, 1647.

Wee whose names are hereunto subscribed, inhabitants of Ainsworth, and appertaineinge unto Cockey Chappell in the name and on ye behalfe of ye rest, do certifie that wth one joynt and unanimous consent and voice wee have nominated and elected Mr. Peter Bradshaw for our minist^r^ to officiate att ye sd Cockey Chappell, wch nomination and election we have heretofore represented unto ye late worthy comittee of minist^rs^ for ye county, and had there approbation and allowance of his exerciseinge as an expectant, as may appeare. And now againe we desire to certifie this reverend assembly therewithall p^r^senting o^r^ humble request that if itt seeme meete you would ꝑceed to ordination of him, soe that still (through the mercy of God) wee may still injoye his labours to ye great comfort, benefitt, and advantage of our soules.

Wittnes our hands.

Richard Dickenson.	John Openshawe.
Lawrence ffogge.	John Allens.
John Aspinall.	John Bradley,
Uxor Robt. Greenhalgh.	John Smith.
John Kirkman.	Peter Winstanley.
Willm. Rawstorre.	Richard Mather.

Noe exceptions being brought in, according to ord^r^ of ye classis there mett wth ye congregac̃on of Cockey Chappell upon Wednesday, being ye 12th day of May, 1647, these viz., Mr. Horrockes, Mr. Harp, Mr. Bath, Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Picke, minist^rs^.

Mr. Harp and Mr. Picke preached; afterward by prayer and imposition of hands ye sd Mr. Peter Bradshaw was ordained and sett apart for ye worke of ye ministry att Cockey Chappell, having an Instrum^t^ concerneinge ye same delivered unto him as followeth.

A Coppie of an Instrum^t for Ordination.

Whereas Mr. Peter Bradshaw hath addressed himselfe unto the second Classis in y^e Province of y^e county of Lancaster accordinge to y^e ordinance of both houses of Parliam^t of August 8^th^, 1646, for the ordinac̃on of ministers by y^e classical presbitery, desireinge to be ordained a preachinge presbyter, for that he is called to y^e worke of y^e ministery att Cockey Chappell within y^e said Classis and Province of Lancaster, and hath exhibited unto y^e presbytery sufficient testimoniall, now remaineing in their custodys, of his competent age, of his unblameable life and conversation, of his diligence and p̣ficiency in his studies, of his taking y^e solemne covenant of the three kingdoms, and of his faire and direct calleing unto y^e place aforemencond: wee, ye ministers of y^e s^d^ presbytery, have (by appointment thereof) examined him according to y^e tenure of y^e s^d^ ordinance, and findinge him to be duly quallified and gifted for that holy office and employment, noe just exception being made against his ordination or admission, we have approved him, and accordingly in the s^d^ Cockey Chappell upon y^e day and yeare hereafter expressed have p̣ceeded solemnly to sett him apart to y^e office of a preachinge presbyter and worke of the ministry with fasting, prayer, and imposition of hands, and do hereby (so farr as concerneth us) actually admit him unto y^e s^d^ charge there, to p̣forme all y^e offices and duties of a faithfull minist^r^ of Jesus Christ.

In witnesse whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names this 12^th^ day of May, año Dni. 1647.

Alexand^r^ Horrockes. Robt. Bath.[7]
John Harper. Thomas Picke.
Jonathan Schofield.

[7] This document is wrongly described as an "instrument." It is simply a copy of a testimony or certificate of ordination. See plenty such in the *Manchester Minutes*, and occasionally in scattered biographies (*e.g.* of *Philip Henry*, p. 253). An

3.—A question about Bi̅ps ordination.

Mr. Thomas Blackburne, appeareinge, shewed his ordination, whereupon arose a question whether an ordination by a Bishoppe in Decembr, 1644, or Septr, 1645, be valied; wch question was remitted to Preston, and Mr. Blackburne, with admonition, referred to ye next meetinge of this classis.

4.—Blackrod petition for Mr. Browne.

A petition prsented by ye inhabitants of Blackrode for Mr. Gerrard Browne to be there ministr as followeth:

Wee, ye inhabitants of Blackrode whose names are subscribed, doe hereby certifie that Mr. Gerrard Browne, an orthodox divine, is of a pious life and conversation, who for ye space of halfe a year and more hath preached ye word of God plainly and powerfully amongst us. Our earnest desire is, therefore, that he may be our ministr (if itt may stand wth ye approbation of this our grave and reverend classis), and in soe doing wee shall pray for ye continuance of yr health and happiness.

Thomas Dilworth.	James Pinington.	Hugh Watmough.
Nicholas Turner.	Thomas Markland.	Rogr Browne.
John Kellett.	Raph Lowe.	George Taylor.
Alexr Rigbie.	Wm. Rauson.	Alexr Woodward.
Richard Nightingale.	Wm. Heale.	Law. Vowse.
Henry Harte.	Robt. Browne.	Giles Marsh.
Thomas Ainscowe.	Richarrd Turnor.	Jam. Brookes.
Thurstan Sheppard.	Hugh Longworth.	Thomas Ainscowe.
Alex. Vowse.	Raph Vowse.	Raph Mather.

Jenr Watmough (cleark).

Mr. Horrockes alsoe, of Deane, certified on his behalfe as ffollt:

instrument proper, or "si quis," was a document sent from the classis to the church to which a candidate was to be ordained. It was posted on the church door, and invited exceptions against the candidate before a certain time, when the classis, in case of no exceptions being returned, intended to proceed with the ordination.

Reverend Brethren.

You shall this day have Mr. Browne, preacher of Blackrode, come before you to desire yo^r^ approbation that he may be preacher there. As for his preaching, I heard him lately at Houghton Chappell preach very well and honestly, but he hath a certificate from y^e^ classis at Ormeschurch, both of his life and doctrine for divers years. He needeth not, therefore, my commendation, only thus much I say, if I weare you I should give him my hand upon triall of himselfe for halfe a year for y^e^ ꝑsent, and soe further upon his behaviour. And thus leaving him unto your gracious consid^r^ac̃on I rest yo^r^ brother and friend.

ALEX^R^ HORROCKES.

The answer both to y^e^ certificate and petition referred to y^e^ next meeteinge.

5.—Confessions and depositions aboute Taylor and Southworth's business.

Alexander Taylor of Blackrode upon his sum̃ons this day appeareinge, confesseth that he, y^e^ said Alexander, promised to marrie Margrett Southworth, and thereupon they brake a piece of silver betweene them, and for the space of a fortenight lay together as husband and wife.

Jane Southworth, sworne and examined, sayth and deposeth that shee was present by and witnesse when Alex^r^ Taylor of Blackrode tooke a groate of current English money out of his purse, and he y^e^ s^d^ Alexand^r^ and one Margrett Southworh of Blackrode did breake it betwixt them (one part whereof was showed before this classis). And further, that the s^d^ Alexander promised to marry the s^d^ Margrett, w^ch^ if he should faile to ꝑforme he prayed that God would never prosper him or anything he undertooke.

Margrett Southworth confesseth that there was a contracte of marriage between one Alexander Taylor and herselfe by breakeinge of a piece of silver betwene y^em^, and

that thereupon they laye togeather, and had carnal knowledge the one of y^e^ other for y^e^ space of a month.

The finall determination hereof remitted to y^e^ next meeting.

6.—Mr. Walton ordered for Preston *returned one* [sic for noe ?] *answer thence.*[1]

Ordered that Mr. Walton, minister, go^e^ to y^e^ meetinge to be houlden att Preston upon y^e^ 4^th^ day of May next, and that Mr. Richard Meadowcroft of Boulton pish do joyne w^th^ him therein.

7.—The next meeteinge of this classis to be att Bury, on Thursdaye, the 20^th^ day of May next, and that Mr. Horrocks of Deane be then moderator.

The moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

[1] The words italicised were apparently a later insertion in the *MS.*

THE 3rd MEETING, May 20th, 1647.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Horrocks, minister of Deane, wth Thom. Legh[1] and John Munkes,[2] eldrs.

Mr. Harper, minister of Boulton, wth Mr. Alexander Norris[3] and John Okey, eldrs.

[1] Leigh, Thomas, elder for Deane. A Charles Leigh also appears as elder for Deane, and the two appear indiscriminately, but never simultaneously, up to January, 165$\frac{4}{5}$. Among the protestors in 164$\frac{1}{2}$ a Thomas Leigh appears in Ronworth township, and again in Over Hulton (Deane parish), and Charles Leigh in West Houghton (Deane parish). The will of Thomas Leigh of Upton within Widnes, yeoman, proved 31 March, 1654 (Somerset House, Alchin, 109);— ditto of T. L., of Croston, yeoman, dated 24 Dec., 1653; proved 25 March, 1656 (*ibid.*, Berkeley, 101). Neither seems likely. The latter mentions my estate of inheritance in Croston and Wrightington, my wife Ellen, my nephews Thomas and Hugh Leigh of the Holmes. For a Thomas Leigh of Newchurch see Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xxxi. p. 241; and for Thomas and Mary, children of Hugh Leigh, *ibid.*, vol. xli. p. 63.

[2] Munkes, John, elder for Deane. A numerous family of this name appears among the protestors (164$\frac{1}{8}$) in West Houghton, Ronworth, and Middle Hulton, all in the parish of Deane, but no John Munkes. The elder is not found attending the classis after May, 1650.

Chester Registry. "Inventory of the goods, &c., of John Munck, son of George Munck, late of Leyland, co. Lanc., shoemaker, deceased;" total is £16 13*s.* 4*d.* Exhibited 5 July, 1671, and administration granted to Peter Munck, natural and lawful brother.

Ibid. Similar inventory of goods, &c., of Joseph Munck, son of the above George Munck, dated 24 June, 1671.

[3] Norris, Alexander, elder for Bolton, doubtless of Tonge. The Alexander Norris who was contemporary, and described as of Bolton, being a Royalist (see Rec. Soc., vol. viii. p. 428.). The latter was probably the proprietor of Hall-i'th'-Wood (see *Not. Cestr.*, vol. ii. pt. i. p. 12), and sixth son of Sir Wm. Norris of Speke. (See *Dugdale's Visitation.*) He died in 1671. The elder was very zealous in his attendance on the classis, where he appears up to 7th April, 1656. He was appointed Treasurer for the parliamentary committee for the county (Husband's folio ordinances, p. 719, 29 Aug, 1645, being there described as Alexander Norris of Bolton, gentleman), and frequently occurs in that capacity in a series of documents at the Record Office relating to payments to ministers (*Excheq. Miscell.*, $\frac{3}{10}$, $\frac{2}{8}$, Record Office). See also a letter of his of 1649 in Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xxiii. p. 157. In the Church Survey of Bolton parish he is noted as paying 5*s.* 8*d.* as his share of the tythe corn of the hamlet of

Mr. Bath, minister of Rochdale, with Mr. Robert Pares and Mr. Edward Dutton,[4] elders.

Mr. Alt, minister of Bury, with James Leech and Thomas Hammond [5] and Arthur Smethurst, elders.

Mr. Pecke, minister of Radcliffe, with Richard Walker and Robert Fogge, elders.

Mr. Scholefield, minister of Heywood.

Tonge. It seems to have been the former of these two men who was the Governor of the Free Grammar School of Bolton (see *Local Gleanings*, vol. iii. p. 343), and probably the former who was feoffee of the Chetham Hospital (Christie's *Lanc. Libr.*, and *Pal. Note Book*).

The elder died in 1672. Will at Chester, dated 24 April, 1672; proved 18 Nov., 1672. "I, Alexander Norris of Tonge . . my lands in Sharples, by me lately purchased of Alexander Radcliffe, to Ann my wife and Henry Norris my brother, with remainder to Alice Starkie my daughter [for his marriage, see *Dugdale*, p. 296]; my houses and shops in Bolton, which I formerly purchased of John Norris, deceased, my uncle, to Ann my wife. To Ann my daughter £100 owing to me by William Boardman her husband." Mentions a bond of £1000 charged on the lands in Tonge, Bolton, and Halliwell, on Alice Starkie in favour of Ann Boardman. Residue of estate to my wife Ann. Total of inventory, undated, £716 17*s.* 10*d.*

[4] Dutton, Edward, elder of Rochdale, only attends two meetings of the Bury classis, having possibly removed to Manchester. For the Edward Dutton of the latter place see *Pal. Note Book*, vol. ii. p. 233, and *Newcome's Autob.*, p. 353, and *Notitia Cestrienses* for his possible ancestors, vol. i. p. 39.

Will at Chester, dated 22 March, 167$\frac{2}{3}$; proved 18 June, 1674. "I, Edward Dutton of Manchester, gent. . . . . my wife Judith her jointure of £10 per annum payable to her by Oliver Taylor of Heapey, yeoman, by agreement of 24 June, 1672 . . . my daughter Mary Worthington . . . my son-in-law Richard Worthington, my kinsman ffrancis Dutton of Salford." Total inventory, dated 21 May, 1674, £85 10*s.* 4$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*

[5] Hammond, Thomas, elder for Bury, attends the classis up to May, 1650, having previously been one of the commissioners for sequestrations for the county (1643, *Civil War Tracts*, p. 91). See Oliver Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. iii. p. 180, for the accidental death of Thomas Hammond, a godly ancient Christian (about 1670).

Chester Registry. Will of Thomas Hammond of Pennington, mercer, dated 2 Feb., 169$\frac{1}{2}$; proved 12 May, 1692. Mentions my daughters Sarah, wife of Jeffrey Hart, and Mary, my three sons Nathaniel, Richard, and John Hammond. To my wife Ann the messuage called Coupson, Tildsley, if Richard my son return not again into the country nor be living. I devise to Nathaniel the cottage and two little inclosures or pinfolds belonging to the Stone House. My sister Sarah of Romford, widow. 6*s.* 8*d.* to the poor of Leigh. Total inventory (28 April, 1692), £527 8*s.* 2*d.*

Delegated and sent from the sev^rall eldcrshipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Horrocks, y^e moderator, begun with prayer.

2.—Mr Brown's appearance.

Mr. Gerrard Browne againe appeareinge in pursuite of his former request was ordred to ꝑcure a certificate from y^e ministers of y^e ffirst classis of this county of his good life and conversation, and shew the same to this classis att y^e next meeteinge, without w^ch he cannot have approbation from us.

3.—Taylor's resolution :

Alex^r Taylor of Blackrode appeared not this day according to appointment, but gave in his resolution in writinge as followeth :

Gentlemen,—These are to certifie you that I, Alex^r Taylor of Blackrode, am now, after serious consideracõn and consultation, fully resolved never to marry Margrett Southworth of Blackrode aforesaid, spinster, therefore I hope and humbly desire that you will be pleased with all gentleness and meekenes deale with me who am willing to submitt myselfe unto what punishment you in yo^r grave wisdoms shall sett downe, censure, & appoint.

By me, ALEX^R. TAYLOR.

Thereupon itt is ordered that Alex^r Taylor be againe summoned att y^e next meeting.

4.—Mr. Goodwin's approbation :

Mr. Richard Goodwine approved on to be minister assistant att Boulton.

5.—Approbacõn of Elders for Holcome :

Arthur Crompton,[6] Wm. Holte,[7] Zachary Bridge,[8] and Thomas Browne,[9] examined and approved to be eld^rs of the presbytery at Holcome.

[6] Crompton, Arthur, elder for Holcome, occurs in the protestor's lists as one of the eight overseers of the poor for Bury parish, and also as one of the overseers of Tottington, "at Holcome Chappell" (164½). He does not appear at the classis meetings after Sept., 1648.

6.—Mr. Blackburne disapproved.

Whereas Mr. Thomas Blackburne was approved of by y^e^ com̄itty of ministers att Manchester to preach at Rivington for six months upon triall, and y^e^ time aforesaide is allready expired, and also y^e^ well affected of y^e^ congregac̃on have desired us to forbare any further approbation of ye said Mr. Blackburne, wee have upon reasons alledged by them resolved noe farth^r^ to approve of y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Blackburne to be minister at Rivington.

7.—Hereticall and sectarian preachers forbidden.

Noe knowne Independent, Arminian, Anabaptist, or Antinomian shall be ꝑmitted to preach in any of our congregations.

8.—That y^e^ ministers at y^e^ chappells in Roachdale ꝑish be

[7] (*Page* 23) Holte, Wm., occurs among the protestors in the "lower end of Tottington," 164½, but does not attend the classis after Oct., 1648. See eighth meeting for his age and evidence against Rev. Mr. Hill. For one of the name (second son of Francis Holt of Grislehurst) see *Dugdale's Visitation*, p. 150; and for another, a son of Robert Holt of Ashworth Hall, in Middleton parish, see Rec. Soc., vol. xvi. p. 440, and Fishwick's *Rochdale*, p. 306. For a William Holt of Stubley, see Raines' *MSS.*, vols. ii. p. 29, viii. p. 153.

Chester Registry. Will of William Hoult of Bury, innkeeper, dated 22 January, 167½; inventory exhibited 24 April, 1672 (no total). Mentions my wife Alice, my daughters Mary and Alice, my son William, and my messuage and tenement in Heape, called Heape Moore. Executors, Thomas Hoult of Whittle and ffrancis Meadowcroft of Lomax.

[8] (*Page* 23) Bridge, Zachary, elder of Holcome, appears among the inhabitants of the "lower end of Tottington" who took the protestation at Holcome Chapel in 164½. He attends the classis up to July, 1652. See in the twenty-first meeting his charges against Rob. Gilbody, the minister.

[9] (*Page* 23) Browne, Thomas, elder for Holcome, appears among the protestors of "lower end of Tottington," and as attending the classis throughout. In the twenty-second meeting is described as T. B. of Holcome, gentleman. In the Church Survey, 1651, he was one of the jurors in the inquisition for Radcliffe, Rivington, and Bury parish, being described as "De Holcome generosus." Oliver Heywood mentions spending a day at his house (*Diaries*, vol. i. p. 231, Sept., 1666) at Horsham, in Bury parish.

Chester Registry. *Infra* will of Thomas Browne of Hayhouse in Bury, yeoman, dated 15 Feb., 169⅞; proved 28 July, 1698. Bequeaths all to Matthew Browne, my only son. Inventory (8 April, 1698), total £16 11*s.* 0*d.*

required to choose elders in there respective [places] or else at y^e^ next meeteinge shew cause for y^e^ contrary.

9.—The next classicall meeteinge to be June y^e^ 17^th^, 1647. Mr. Alt moderator.

The moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

Alexander Horrockes, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 4^th^ MEETING, June y^e^ 17th day, 1647.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Alt, minister of Bury, w^th^ Mr. Peter Holte and John Kay,[1] elders.

Mr. Horrocks, minister of Deane, w^th^ Roger Walmesley[2] and Richard Mather,[3] elders.

[1] Kay[e], John, elder for Bury, appears among the protestors in the parish of Bury, 164½ (William and Thomas Kaye being churchwardens). In the inquisition (1651) of Rochdale parish he is described as John Kay of Thurnham, gentleman (Rec. Soc., vol. i. p. 18); and also as possessing a house in Walmsley, in Bury parish (*ibid.*, p. 41). He was one of the defendants in the case about the Bury tithes (see note under James Hardman). Kay attends the classis with great assiduity throughout, and must be distinguished from the Captain Kay (a Royalist) who was one of the commanders at the siege of Lathom House, 1644. (*Pal. Note Book*, vol. iii. p. 89; *Civil War Tracts*, p. 169.) In 1658 Newcome speaks of his old Aunt Kay of Bury (*Autob.*, p. 82). See also Raines' *MSS.*, vols. xiv. p. 20, xxxi. pp. 411, 414, 417.

Chester Registry. Will of John Kay of Entwistle, proved 1672, *ibid.* *Infra* will of John Kay of Tonge Moor (Admon., 1675), *ibid.* Will of John Kay of Bury, blacksmith, dated 15 Oct., 1678; proved 30 April, 1679. Mentions Mary my wife, and Richard Kay my sister Margret's son. Inventory taken 28 March, 1679. Total, £56 14*s.* 2*d.*

[2] Walmsley, Roger, elder for Deane, appears among the protestors of Heaton, parish of Deane, 164⅓. Attends the classis throughout regularly. For frequent references to previous Rogers of the family at Rogersteed, see Rec. Soc., vols. iii. and xii., and Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xiv. p. 21.

Chester Registry. Will of Roger Walmsley of Rogersteed, gentleman, dated 5 April, 1664; proved 12 May, 1664. Sole legatee his daughter Anna. John Tildesley, clerk, and Adam Robinson, executors.

Mr. Harper, minister of Boulton, w^th^ Adam ffearneside[4] and Richard Bradshaw,[5] elders.

[3] (*Page* 25) Mather, Richard, elder for Deane, appears among the protestors of Middle Hulton, Deane parish, in 164½. Attends the classis irregularly up to Dec., 1655.

Chester Registry. Will of Richard Mather of Lowton, yeoman, dated 7 Oct., 1669; proved 11 Feb., 16$\frac{8}{9}$. My sons Roger, Nicholas, and Thomas, and Elizabeth and Katherine my daughters, my son John and his son. One parcel of ground called Entwisle, in Lowton, and one parcel of ground called Kenion Croft, in Kenion; the profits to be equally divided till Katherine attains the age of 16. Inventory taken 2 Nov., 1669, £169 12*s.* 5*d.*

[4] Fernside, Adam, of Little Lever, elder for Bolton, an ancestor of Mr. Hardman's of Allerton Hall, Rochdale. He attended the classis throughout with great regularity, but almost all the notices of him are posterior to the Restoration. His barn was a frequent meeting-place, in which Oliver Heywood preached (*Diaries*, vol. iv. p. 74, July 1682; vol. i. p. 241, May, 1667, and so on). "When the former act against conventicles was out, and no new one made, Adam Fernside, a good friend of mine, desired me to join with a worthy neighbour of his, Mr. James Bradshaw, late of Macclesfield, to keep a day of preaching and prayer at his son-in-law's house, in a dark corner of Bury parish." (Martindale's *Autob.*) See also Newcome's *Diary*, and note *supra s.v.* John Andrews.

Chester Registry. Will of Adam Fearniside of Little Lever, yeoman, dated 8 Aug., 1684; proved 29 May, 1685. "I, A. F. . . aged aboved 75 years. To James Fearniside my son my messuage wherein we now dwell in Little Leaver. And whereas I am seised of a certain messuage and tenement in Howcome, now in occupancy of John Duckworth, I devise same to my executors to the use of my son Adam and his assigns, with remainder as to one-fourth part to my grandson Thomas Leaver, remainder to my grandson Nathan Mason, one-fourth part to my grandson James Davenport, with remainder to my grandson Thomas Davenport, and one other fourth part to my granddaughter Mary Unsworth, with remainder to my granddaughter Hannah Unsworth, and one other fourth part to my grandson Adam Smith, with remainder to my granddaughter Hannah Smith; and whereas by a deed of 27 March, 1679, I have settled certain lands in Entwisley for the use of Ellin my wife, I devise reversion of same in like manner as for the messuage in Howcome. Also to my executors half of a messuage in Bold to use of my son Adam. My messuage in Failsworth in occupancy of Raphe Smith, my son-in-law, devised to said Raphe Smith if he pay my daughter £30; and whereas at the former marriage of my son James I delivered to him the moiety of all my lands whereon I then lived, and £40 in wool and £40 more in the purchase of Crouhlow land; . . . to my son-in-law Giles Unsworth's three daughters the £40 he owes me, £17 to the poor of Little Leaver, 20*s.* to the poor of Darcy Leaver, 10*s.* to the poor of Little Boulton." Inventory taken 6 May, 1685; total £204 17*s.* 6*d.*

[5] Bradshaw, Richard, elder for Bolton, appears among the protestors of Bolton (164½), and as attending the classis with great regularity up to May, 1657. Possibly

Mr. Bath, minister of Rochdale, with James Stott[6] and Samuell Wyld,[7] elders.

of the Bradshaws of Pennington (see *Dugdale's Visitation*, p. 54). For the Richard of this family, *ætat.* 54 in Sept., 1664, see *ibid.* and *Not. Cestrienses*, vol. ii. pt. ii. p. 181; and Fishwick's *Rochdale*, p. 471. For Richard Bradshaw, fourth son of Lawrence of Hope, of the Bradshaws of Pendleton, see *Dugdale's Visitation*, p. 53.

Chester Registry. Will of Richard Bradshaw, Esq., of Pennington, dated 28 April, 1681; proved 2 Nov., 1685. My houses and lands in Lancashire to my wife Katherine, she paying to my son Byron £80 yearly, or to let him have the house called Bradford Lach, with the lands thereto, as by a settlement dated 18 March, 168$\frac{0}{1}$. All my personal estate to my wife, she paying legacies as by my will. My manor of Pennington to my feoffees, Sir James Bradshaw of Risby, co. York, George Manwaring of Chester, merchant, and Thos. Mort of Dumhouse, Lanc., Esq., to hold to the use of my son Byron, with remainder to his eldest son Richard, his second son John, and third son respectively, remainder to George Bradshaw my second son, and his eldest son Richard, and his other sons respectively, my son George, in case of succession, paying to the daughters of my son Byron £500 among them. Also I desire my wife to keep my two grandchildren Richard and Katherine, children of my son Byron, which now live with me. To my daughter Susannah Wentworth £100, in augmentation of her portion. To her three sons, John, Darcy, and Richard, £50 each. To my son George and his son Richard £200 between them in full of the portion of my said son George above £700. To John and Mary, children of my son Byron, £100 each. To my servants £20 above their wages. To the poor of the parish of Leigh £10. To the poor of Pennington cum Leigh £3. To poor of Atherton 40*s.*, to poor of Bedford 30*s.*, to poor of Westleigh 30*s.*, to poor of Astley 20*s.*, to poor of Tildesley cum Shakerley 20s., and for an annual and lasting relief to the poor of Pennington cum Leigh £5 yearly for ever to twenty of the most necessitous poor. I give £6 yearly for ever towards maintaining a good schoolmaster at Leigh, and I charge my lands therewith. The old hall of Carden in Tilston, in Cheshire, settled on me by Owen Fitton my kinsman, worth £100 a year in present and £100 a year in reversion, and mortgaged to Robert Booth of Walbrook, London, grocer, for £1,500 (whereof £1,000 for my grandchild Elizabeth Radcliffe, whose guardian I am, and £500 to my son George), I give to my son Byron, charged as above, and also charged with £5 yearly for poor of Tilston and £5 yearly for erecting a school in Tilston. My daughter Susanuah executrix, and my dear nephew Sir James Bradshaw to be assisting to her. Codicil, dated 14 July, 1683, desiring my sister Hesketh and her sons Barnaby and Roger to take in my lease of all the estate of my late brother-in-law Mr. Robert Hesketh at North Meols and Pilling for 500 years, and on which I gave them a defeasance, paying £1,000. Codicil, 12 Dec., 1683: "Now my dear wife is dead," my son Byron to succeed, &c., as above. Codicil, 4 March, 168$\frac{3}{4}$: £20 to my neice Mrs. Mary Manwaring, wife of Roger M. of Kermincham, Cheshire; £20 to Elizabeth Manwaring of Chester, my neice, and £20 to Alice Gerrard, her sister. 23 Nov., 1703, administration of goods unadministered

Mr. Picke, minister of Radcliffe, with Richard Walker and Robert ffogge, elders.

Mr. Gilbodie, minister of Holcome, with Thomas Browne and Arthur Crompton, eld^rs^.

Delegated and sent from y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Alt, y^e^ moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ordered that Mr. Blackburne shall not have a coppy of y^e^ articles against him (as he desired) untill y^e^ next classicall meeteinge.

3.—That Mr. Gerrard Browne shall bringe a certificate from the ffirst classis as itt was ordred at ye last meeteinge of y^e^ 20^th^ of May.

by Byron Bradshaw, Esq., granted to Margaret Bradshaw, relict of John Bradshaw, grandson and legatee of Richard Bradshaw.

[6] (*Page* 27) Stott, James, elder for Rochdale, occurs among the protestors of Rochdale (164½), and is named in the parliamentary ordinance an elder of the second classis, appearing as James Scott of Healey (*Man. Min.*, p. 7). Only attends up to Nov., 1649. For earlier mention of this family see Fishwick's *Rochdale Vicars*, Chet. Soc., and for later, Fishwick's *History of Rochdale*, pp. 97 and 103, and Raines' *MSS.*, vols. v. p. 287, iv. p. 30, iii. p. 158, vii. pp. 30, 37, xiii. p. 337.

Chester Registry. Act Book, 27 June, 1673. Letters of administration of the goods, &c., of James Scott, late of Wigan, granted to Charles Scott of Wigan, son of the deceased, to the use of Ellen his mother, relict of the said deceased.

[7] (*Page* 27) Wyld, Samuel, elder for Rochdale, occurs among the protestors of Rochdale, 164½, and was nominated ("Samuel Wylde of Rochdale, mercer") an elder of the second classis in the parliamentary ordinance. (*Man. Min.*, p. 7.) He attended the classis up to June, 1651. "Here lyeth the body of Samuel Wyld of Rochdale, the senior, mercer. Buried the 9^th^ day of April, the yere of our Lord God, 1659." (Fishwick's *Rochdale*, p. 163.)

Will at Somerset House (Nabbs, 197). "Of my temporal goods ⅓ to my wife which of right to her belongeth, and also half of a close in Rossendall which I did purchase of her sister Joan Wodelworth. To Samuell my eldest son 5^li^ besides what he doth owe me, the which I forgive him. My son James 5^s^. Rest of goods to be divided equally among my remaining children. Sarah my wife sole executrix, hoping she will see my children brought up well and put to trades. Memorandum: That in the room of 5^li^ Samuel Wylde in the above will of his caused 5 shillings only to by given by his executrix to his son James, and doth require his said son James to pay 100^li^ towards his younger brothers' and sisters' portions as he promised his father. Dated 20 Feb., 1657; proved 16 Oct., 1660.

4.—Suspension of Taylor and Southworth:

That Alexandr Taylor and Margrett Southworth of Blackrode, whoe have lived lewdly under ꝑtence of marriage a whole month together, shall be suspended from ye sacramt of ye Lords Supper, and shall be further left to ye power of ye civill magistrates, and that ye sentence of suspension be openly published in ye chappell of Blackrode by ye minister there in a full congregac̃on.

5.—Approbac̃on of ye elders for Cockey.

Richard Dickenson[8] and Peter Winstanley,[9] nominated by ye congregation of Cockey Chappell, were examined and approved to be elders of the presbytery of Cockey.

6.—Mr. Picke ordered for Preston.

That Mr. Picke, minister of Radcliffe, shall goe to ye meeteinge att Preston upon the ffirst Tuesday in July, and that Richard Walker shall accompany him.

[8] Dickinson, Richard, elder for Cockey, ppears among the protestors of Ainsworth, in Middleton parish (164½), and in the parliamentary ordinance (Richard Dickonson of Aynsworth, yeoman) as an elder of the second classis. His nomination at this comparatively late date, by the Cockey congregation shows that the nomination by the parliament was only temporary and initiatory until the new church system was working of itself. Dickenson attends the classis up to June, 1649. For a Richard Dickinson of Shevington, Leyland hundred, see Rec. Soc., vol. xii. p. 109 and *Dugdale's Visit.*, p. 343; and for another of the same name, of Eccleston, see *Dugdale, ibid.*, p. 98.

The will of Richard Dickenson of Crayburne, parish of Over Kellet, is in Somerset House (Alchin, 301). Conveyance of goods and lands, &c., in Craybourne, Over Kellet, and Haughton, to Richard Chapman and Lawrence Breare of Bolton by the Sands, in trust for my son Thomas Dickenson. Mentions his wife. Dated 15 Oct., 1653; proved at Westminster, 31 Nov., 1654.

[9] Winstanley, Peter, elder of Cockey, appears among the protestors of Ainsworth, in Middleton parish. Attends the classis with great regularity up to November, 1656.

Will of Peter Winstanley of Goose Greene, in Pemberton, dated 11 Nov., 1654; proved 13 Nov., 1655. Mentions wife Anne, and children Alexander, John, Peter, and Anne. (Somerset House, Aylett, 465.) For this earlier Peter, see Rec. Soc., vol. xii. Peter, the Cockey elder, possibly a son of above, was "my dear uncle, buryed at Cockey by his old friend Richard Mather, August, 1682, aged 71." (Oliver Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. ii., p. 146; see *ibid.*, p. 108.) See *Dugdale's Visitation* for his wife Cicely, daughter of John Ince of Ince.

7.—Mr. Ashton summoned to bring in elders, and answer about Mr. Symon.

That Mr. Ashton, parson of Midleton be sent [to] to bringe in his elders at y^e^ next meeting, and also to give reason for his entertaineinge of Mr. Symons to preach att Midleton as his assistant without approbation.

8.—That Mr. Tilsley be moderator att y^e^ next meeteinge, w^ch^ is to be att Bury the 22^nd^ day of July.

The moderator ended with prayer.

William Alte, moderator p̲ tempore.

THE 5^th^ MEETEINGE, July 22, 1647.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Horrocks and Mr. Tilsley, ministers of Deane, with Henry Mollinex[1] and John Ashely,[2] elders.

[1] Mollineux, Henry, elder for Deane, was nominated an elder of the second classis in the parliamentary ordinance (*Man. Min.*, p. 7) as Hy. Molineux of West Houghton, gentleman. He only attends on the present occasion and in Nov., 1653, and all further trace of him is lost. (See Raines' *MSS.*, vol. xxv. p. 286.)

Chester Registry. Will of Henry Mollineux of Westhoughton, gent., dated 14 Oct.; proved 31 Dec., 1662. "Whereas I have formerly given and paid to Lawrence Crompton my son-in-law in marriage portion with my daughter Elizabeth £100. I give to my children John, Ruhama, and Debora, £100 each; to Hanna Richardson, *alias* Wallworke, my granddaughter, £30. Nathaniel my eldest son to have £400 out of residue of my goods, in lieu of £400 charged upon my messuages, &c., in Westhaughton, according to an indenture thereof made to John Tilsley, clerk, and George Whithington, for the use of Dorothy my wife." Mentions Margaret my eldest son's wife, and Thomas Williams and Mary his wife (my daughter apparently).

[2] Ashley, John, elder for Deane, appears among the protestors of Deane in 164½, and attends the classis with some regularity up to May, 1657 (being sometimes mis-styled *Joshua* Astley).

Will at Somerset House (Pell, 275). "I, John Ashley, the elder, of Blackburne, yeoman. My body to be buried in the parish church of Blackburn in such place as

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, with Tho: Hamond and Arthur Smithurst, elders.

Mr. Goodwin, minister of Boulton, with John Andrews and Mr. Richard Meadowcroft, elders.

Mr. Picke, minister of Radcliffe, with Richard Walker and Robert ffogge, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Gilbody, minister of Holcome, with Zachary Bridge and Arthur Crompton, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, with Richard Dickenson and Peter Winstanley, elders.

Delegated and sent from y^{e} severall elderships of y^{e} s^{d} classis.

1.—The moderator begun with prayer.

2.—It is ordered that Mr. Bradshaw of Wigan and Mr. Lathom of Standish, and y^{e} well affected people of Blackrode, be sent to, to send under there hands what they know concerninge Mr. Brownes late conversation, being he desires and is desired by some to be minister of Blackrode.

3.—Mr. Symons first sum̄ons. Eld^{rs} of Heywood. Bastard baptism.

That Mr. Symons be sent unto to come hither the next meeteinge to give an account why he hath continued constantly to preach at Midleton, not being theireto approved by y^{e} classis.

That Mr. Scholefield, minister of Heywood, be sent unto to bring the eld^{rs} elected for that congregation to be tryed at y^{e} next meeteinge.

That itt be seriously considerd by us sev^{r}ally in y^{e} intrim, and att the next meeteinge be fully and throughly debated what is to be done concerning bastard baptisme.

my ancestors have formerly been buried. My temporal estate equally divided between Richard my son and Ellen my daughter; Richard to have guardianship of her if she continue in a condition of want of her natural senses. To my son George 20*s.*, in full discharge of any filial porcon he might challenge, having formerly given him my messuage and tenement, being a chattel of goods more in worth than I have given or am able to give to all the rest of my children." Dated 10 Dec., 1658; proved at London, 30 May, 1659.

4.—Mr. Allans and Mr. Pollitts first sum̄ons.

That Mr. Allen, preacher at Litlebrough, and Mr. Pollitts, preacher at Millroe, be sent unto to be here at y^e^ next meeteing to give an account why they have exercised theire ministry in a constant course within the precincts of this classicall presbytery without approbation of this classis.

5.—That ord^r^ for y^e^ publication of y^e^ suspention of Alex^r^ Taylor and Margrett Southworth of Blackrode be forborne till itt be determined whether Mr. Browne be setled minister there, yea or noe.

6.—About looking back to scandalls past:[1]

That y^e^ 1^st^ classis be consulted with concerning the looking backe to scandalls past, how farr we shall take cognizance therefore, and that Mr. Tilsley consulte them.

7.—That y^e^ 19^th^ day of August next be y^e^ day for y^e^ classicall meeteing att Bury, and that Mr. Goodwin be moderator.

8.—Conclusions att Preston, July y^e^ 6^th^.

Mr. Picke brought in y^e^ results att y^e^ meeting att Preston, July 6^th^, 1647, as followeth:

a That no result shall pass from y^e^ meeting as authentique but under y^e^ registers hand.

b That y^e^ communicants examined and approved at theire first admission to y^e^ Lords supper be p̄ticularly [or seriatim] published before y^e^ congrega c̄on some convenient time before, is judged y^e^ most prudentiall way.

c A minister that can be proved to have admitted a scandalous p̄son knowing and remembring him to be soe, and not prosecuted him before the eldershippe, may be p̄ceeded ag^t^ as in cases of scandalls not enumerated.

d It may be lawfull for a minister to take a presentation from a patron.

e That usury is a scandalous sin deserving suspention upon obstinacy.

[1] See note on p. 11.

f That an elder hath no more power in y^e^ election of a minister than any other member of y^e^ congregation.

g That any ꝑson sum̄oned to appear before a classis yet obstinately refusing to appear, ought to be certified and complained of to the magistrate, according to ordinance, &c.

h Eld^rs^ are bound privately to oversee y^e^ members of there congregation.

i Y^e^ next meeting to be y^e^ first Tusday in September.

Vera copia EDW: GEE.

9.—Some debate being had upon these conclusions, itt was agreed that these ensuing ꝑticulars be propounded att y^e^ next meeting att Preston:

a That y^e^ terme "authentique" may be changed for some other cleare expretion and free from exception.

b That y^e^ third article be reassumed into consideration, and particularly why itt should be imposed upon ministers only.

c That itt may be sett down definitively what this scandalous usury is, and why obstinacy should be required in this rather then other scandalls.

d As to y^e^ sixth conclusion, who is their to be understood by members, whether they that are in a capacity of all ordinances at present or noe.

10.—The moderator ended with prayer.

John Tilsley, moderator ꝑ tempore.

THE SIXTH MEETING, August y^e^ 19^th^, 1647.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Goodwin, minister of Boulton, with John Okey and Adam ffearnside, elders.

Mr. Horrocks, minister of Deane, with Henry Hindley[1] and Giles Edge, elders.

Mr. Bath, minister of Rochdale. w^th^ John Schoofield and Edward Dutton, eld^rs^.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, w^th^ Tho^s^ Hamond and Arthur Smithurst and John Kay, eld^rs^.

Mr. Picke, minister of Radcliffe, w^th^ Richard Walker and Richard Hardman, elders.

Mr. Gilbody, minister of Holcome, with Zachary Bridge and Willm. Holte, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, w^th^ Richard Dickonson and Peter Winstanley, eld^rs^.

Delegated and sent from y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps in this classe.

1.—The moderator begun with prayer.

2.—Mr. Hollingworth and Tilsley busines considered.

Ordered:

a That y^e^ busines of repaying some p^t^ of Mr. Hollingworth and Mr. Tilsley theire disbursm^t^ about setling the Church Government should be taken care of by such of

[1] Hindley, Henry, elder for Deane. See Rec. Soc., vol. xvi. p. 157, for a possible reference to him as of Harwood in 16$\frac{3}{10}$. He occurs among the protestors of Over Hulton (Deane), 164$\frac{1}{2}$, but only attends the classis on three occasions. He died in 1663.

Will at Chester, dated March 7, 165$\frac{2}{3}$; proved 11 Aug., 1663. "I, Henry Hinlay of Over Hulton, in the county of Lancaster and parish of Deane. One half my goods to be equally divided among my six children; my brother John £10, and the work-house made fit to lodge in during his life; my brother (in-law) William Makant, and Margret and Ellen his daughters. Charles Hinlay, my eldest son, to pay to four of my children Richard £6, Henry (youngest son) £12, Margery £6, Elin £6." Inventory dated 10 March, 165$\frac{2}{3}$, £115 0*s.* 4*d.*

us as have done nothing in it formerly, vizt., Mr. Alte, Mr. Bath, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Gilbody, Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Ashton, and that account be given of itt att y^e^ next meeting.

b Chester business considered of.

That y^e^ said condic̃on of Chester be considered in o^r^ sev^r^all congrega c̃ons, and such course as may tend to theire reliefe be thought of and account given thereof att y^e^ next meeting.

c That y^e^ matter concerning Mr. Browne, because we have heard nothing from Mr. Latham and Mr. Bradshaw themselves who were sent to concerning him, be reserved to y^e^ next meeting.

3.—Orders for Mr. Symonds certificate:

That Mr. Symonds, who appeared before us, gett a certificate from Manchest^r^ of his life and doctrine, itt being y^e^ last place he did officiate in as minister, and for our better sattisfaction p̣sent itt to us att y^e^ next meeting.

4.—The like for Mr. Pollitt.

5.—Mr. Tilsley ord^r^ed for Preston.

That Mr. Tilsley goe to y^e^ meeting att Preston upon y^e^ first Tusday in Septb^r^ next, and thereof give account at y^e^ next meeting.

6.—Order for Mr. Allens:

That Mr. Allins, preacher at Littlebrough (who hath been before us), who hath excused himselfe as yet unsetled, may here after from meeting to meeting give us notice how y^e^ busines of his setleing p̣ceedes, and when it pleaseth God that there is a likeleyhoode of setling that then he doe seeke to us for such an approbation as we in our classis are appointed to give in such a case.

7.—Order for Mr. Pollitt certificate:

That Mr. Pollitt, preacher att Millrowe, bringe a certificate to us from Mr. Heiricke and Mr. Angier or y^e^ classis att Manchest^r^ att our next meeting.

8.—The publication of a suspention, *ut supra*, put off because Mr. Browne is not approved.[2]

9.—Upon consultation w^th^ y^e^ first clasis they concluded that we are to looke backe to scandalls to or from y^e^ laying downe of the form^r^ goverm^t^.

10.—The busines about bastards baptism put of to ye next meeting.

11.—Mr. Hills sum̄ons:

That Mr. Hill, att Edenfield, be sent for to give an account why he exerciseth y^e^ ministry within y^e^ precincts of this classicall presbytery without y^e^ approbation thereof.

12.—Aprobation of eld^rs^ for Heywood:

That James Hardman[3] and John Ashworth[4] being examined, bee approved of and allowed to be eld^rs^ att Heywood chappell.

13.—That y^e^ 28^th^ day of Sept^br^ be our next meeting, and Mr. Picke moderator for that time.

14.—Mr. Goodwin, the moderator, endeth with prayer.

Richard Goodwin, moderator p̄ tempore.

[2] Taylor and Southworth's suspension at Blackrod. (See minute 5 of succeeding meeting, and minutes 4 and 7 of the 9th meeting).

[3] Hardman, James, elder for Heywood, Bury, possibly son of one of the name who was son and heir of Lawrence Hardman (possibly a son of Thomas, who died 1594), of Marcrofte Gate, Rochdale, and admitted to lands in Spotland, 9 May, 1604. (Fishwick's *Rochdale*, pp. 299, 520, and Rec. Soc., vol. xii; Raines' *MSS.*, vol. ix. pp. 221, 225; xxxi. 401; viii. 220.)

James Hardman appears among the protestors of Bury in 164½, and in 1651 as holding messuages and tenements in Pilsworth hamlet (Middleton parish) (Rec. Soc., vol. i. pp. 25, 26, 43). He was a frequent attender at the classical meetings, and on being made churchwarden of Middleton at the Restoration had scruples as to the oath (see Newcome's *Diary*, p. 187; see also *Autob.*, p. 93. Newcome sent his little Betty to James Hardman's to be bathed for ricketts.)

Hardman was the principal defendant in a suit concerning tithes that was of considerable local interest. See a full abstract of the case in the *Bury Times* for October 28th, 1893.

Chester Registry. Inventory of goods of James Hardman of Radcliffe, taken June 20, 1675, total £72 15*s.* 8*d.*; exhibited 3 May, 1676, and administration granted to Elizabeth, relict.

[4] Ashworth, John, elder for Heywood (Bury), appears among the protestors of Cowpe Hamlet (Bury), 164½. Only attends the classis on three occasions and up to April, 1648.

THE 7th MEETING, Septr 23, 1647.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Picke, ministr of Radcliffe, wth Richard Walker and Robt Fogge, elders.

Mr. Bath, ministr of Rochdale, wth Samuell Wild, eldrs.

Mr. Alte, ministr of Bury, with Arthur Smithurst and John Kay, eldrs.

Mr. Goodwin, ministr of Boulton, wth Ellis Bradshaw [1] and John Yate, eldrs.

[1] Bradshaw, Ellis, elder of Bolton, a notable figure, descended probably from the Ellis Bradshaw of Tonge (for whom see Rec. Soc., vol. iii. *passim*). He occurs among the protestors of Bolton as overseer of the poor, and also attests the return as constable (164½). He only attended the classis on two occasions, and late in June, 1648, was summoned before it by the Bolton parochial presbytery for want of attendance on the Government, and for disorders. (See 18th, 19th, and 21st meetings, *infra*). *Infra* wills at Chester,—Bradshaw, Ellis, of Tonge. Inventory, 1678.

The following works by him exist :

1. An Husbandmans Harrow, to pull down the ridges of the Presbyteriall Government and to Smooth a little the Independent. London, 1649. 4to. (Brit. Mus., and Manchester Free Library.)

2. A Week Daies Lecture or continued Sermon, to wit, the Preaching of the Heavens, &c. London, 1649. 4to. (Brit. Mus., and Manch. Free Lib.)

3. A New and Cleer Discovery of the True and Proper Natural Cause of the Ebbing and Flowing of the Main sea, convincingly held forth both from Scripture and reason, &c. London, 1649. 4to. (Brit. Mus., and Manch. Free Lib.)

4. A True relation of the Strange Apparitions seen in the air on Monday, 25 Feb., in and about Bolton-in-the-Mores in the county of Lancaster, at Mid-day, being a letter sent from E. B. to a friend in London, with observations thereupon. London, 1650. 4to. (Brit. Mus.)

5. A Compendious Answer to a Book called a Brief Survay of the Judgement of Mr. John Goodwin and the Church of God walking with him. 1652. (Manch. Free Lib.) *Pal. Note Book*, vol. iv. p. 156.

6. Downfall of tythes no Sacrilege ; or certaine earnest and important queries, with their reasons or grounds, in answer to the author of a printed sheet entituled an Item Against Sacrilege, or Sundry queries concerning tythes. London, 1653. 4to. (Brit. Mus.)

7. The Quakers Whitest Divell Unvailed. 1654. (Manch. Free Lib.) *Pal. Note Book*, vol. iv. p. 156.

Brit. Mus : Naylor, J., The Railer Refuted, in a reply to E. B. 1654.

Mr. Tilsley, minist^r^ of Deane, w^th^ Robt. Hunte and Abraham Bolton,[1] eld^rs^.

Mr. Gilbody, minist^r^ of Holcome, and Mr. Bradshawe, minister of Cockey. w^th^ Richard Dickonson and Peter Winstanley, eld^rs^, delegated and sent from the sev^r^all eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Picke, moderator, begun w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ordered that it is certified that y^e^ busines concerning y^e^ payeing of Mr. Hollinworth and Mr. Tilsley is taken into consideration, something is done in itt w^th^ a promise of pursuite thereof, and to give account at y^e^ next meeting.

3.—Certified also that y^e^ s^d^ condicon of Chester is taken into consideracõn, some thing allready done in itt, and account thereof further to be given att y^e^ next meeting.

4.—ffurther enquirie about Mr. Browne:

That Mr. Latham and Mr. Bradshaw be againe sent to concerning Mr. Browne late conversation what they understand and can certifie thereof against y^e^ next meeting.

5.—The busines about Mr. Allin, Mr. Symonds, Mr. Pollitt is referred unto y^e^ next meeting. If they then appeare not that they be sent unto.

6.—That Mr. Hill bring in his certificate and the informers satisfye themselves more fully concerning him, and that himselfe forbeare to preach untill y^e^ next meeting.

7.—That y^e^ publicacõn of y^e^ suspension *ut supra* be put off because Mr. Brown is not yet approved.

8. The Conviction of James Naylor and his Black Spirit Demonstrated by his own Confessions, Lyes, &c. 1656. (Manch. Free Lib.)

Brit. Mus: Wickedness Weighed, in answer to E. B. J. Naylor. 1656.

9. The Quakers Quaking Principles Examined and Refuted, in a briefe answer to some erroneous tenets held forth by James Naylor in his answers unto Mr. Baxter, . . . wherein is also included a Serious Admonition how wee ought to behave towards the Minister of the Gospell. London, 1656. 4to. (Brit. Mus., and Manch. Free Lib.) Bradshaw was also answered by George Fox in "The Great Mistery of the Great Whore unfolded," 1659.

[1] Bolton, Abraham, occurs among the protestors of Kersley, Deane parish, in 164½. Only attends the classis on the present occasion. Died in 1681 (will). For references to a descendent see Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. iii. p. 301, and vol. iv. *passim*.

8.—That Mr. James Smith of Walmesley, and Mr. James Rigby of Turton, be sent unto to give account why they exercise y^e^ ministrey within this presbytery without approbation of y^e^ classis.

9.—October y^e^ 19^th^ the day of our next meeting. Mr. Bradshaw be moderator.

Thomas Picke, moderator p tempore.

THE 8^th^ MEETING, Octob^r^ 14^th^, 1647.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, with Richard Dickenson and Peter Winstanley, eld^rs^.

Mr. Harper, minister of Boulton, with Roger Roscowe and Richard Bradshaw, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bath, minister of Roachdale, with James Stott, elder.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, w^th^ Arth. Smithurst and John Kay, eld^rs^.

Mr. Tilsley, minister of Deane, with Charles Leigh and John Roscowe,[1] eld^rs^.

Mr. Picke, minist^r^ of Radcliffe, and Richard Hardman and Robt. Fogge, elders.

Mr. Gilbody, minist^r^ of Hollcome, with Thomas Browne and Wm. Holte, eld^rs^.

Delegated and sent from the sev^r^all eldershipps of this classis.

1.—The moderator began w^th^ prayer.

[1] Roscoe, John, elder for Deane, occurs among the protestors of Farnworth, Deane parish, and attends the classis to the close, but very irregularly. Oliver Heywood mentions preaching at his house by Cockey Moore in 1671, April (*Diaries*, pt. i. vol. i. p. 78).

2.—Mr. Scholefield charge ag^{t} the people of Heywood:

Mr. Scholefield, minister of Heywood, put up an accusation against the people of Heywood in generall for some indirect and injurious dealing with him, where upon he signified his desire of a dismission from y^{e} place with allowance of y^{e} classis. Ordered that y^{e} people of Heywood be sent to and desired to make appearance by themselves or their deputyes to make answer and alledge what they can justly for themselves att y^{e} next meeting.

3.—Mr. Rigbys appearance:

Mr. James Rigby of Turton, appeareing upon his summons signified his willingness and desire to be ordained minister by this presbytery as soone as y^{e} rules of y^{e} psent goverm^{t} will pmitt him. Itt is ordred that as an expectant he may have sufferance to exercise his gift att Turton, so that Mr. Rigby and the people of Turton do signifie unto this classis att y^{e} next meeting what pceedings they have made concerning their mutuall closing to have y^{e} s^{d} Mr. Rigby minister there; hereof an intimation in writing is to be sent to Mr. Rigby and y^{e} people.

4.—That Mr. Smith preacher att Walmesley not appeareing upon sumons be expected heare y^{e} next meeting. If he appeare not then that he be againe sent to.

5.—Information and depositions of witnesses against Mr. Hill of Edenfield.

Mr. Hill of Edenfield this day psented a certificate from y^{e} place of his last aboade concerning his life and doctrine.

Thereupon sundry inform'd ag^{t} him sev^{r}all things upon oath.

Henry Coulborne of Radcliffe, aged 40, being sworne and examined, deposeth and sayth that in y^{e} latter end of June last, 1647, this deponent traveling upon y^{e} high ways lyeing in Prestwich and Broughton towards Manchest^{r} from Radcliffe Bridge, and discourseing with Mr. Rob^{t} Hill, he y^{e} s^{d} Mr. Hill did say and averre that y^{e} presbyterian gov^{r}m^{t} was

antichristian, and he would prove y^e^ same, and further that our ministers were antichristian and himselfe was Independant.—HENRY COLBORNE.

William Holte of Tottington in y^e^ pish of Bury, aged 36, sworne and examined sayth that y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Hill haveing received an order from y^e^ classis att Bury not to preach att Edenfield chappell till he had brought a certificate of his carrage for three years past from y^e^ place of his last residence, said in y^e^ hearing of this deponent in the house of Andrew Haworth that he, the s^d^ Mr. Hill, would preach in despite of any classis in England, and cursed one Thomas Hamond sayeing y^e^ devill goe with him because y^e^ said Hamond seemed to oppose his said resolution.—WM. HOLTE.

Edward Hamer of Brickden in Tottington, aged 28, sworne and examined, saith that he this deponent at Haslingden faire last Sept^r^ 20^th^ last past, in Widow Ryley her shop, heard y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Hill say he would preach in despite of y^e^ gutts of y^e^ classis, and this deponent with others conceived y^t^ Mr. Hill was druncke at y^e^ same time for that he fell downe in y^e^ street and could not rise up without y^e^ helpe of others.—EDWARD HAMER.

There is also more evidence to be brought in ag^t^ Mr. Hill if need require by Mr. Bath for bastardizinge, by Mr. Gilbody and Mr. Holte for abusive carriage, by Mr. Breerley for swaring or takeing God's name in vaine.

6.—Mr. Hills inhibition :

Ordered that Mr. Robt. Hill be inhibited preaching att Edenfield chappel or within y^e^ precincts of this classis, and that an inhibition by writing be forthwith sent unto him or y^e^ chappelrie.

7.—The publicac̃on of y^e^ suspension of y^e^ two p̃sons of Blackrode bee put off *ut supra.*

8.—That itt be required at y^e^ next meeting what is done about Mr. Hollinworth and Mr. Tilsley busines, as also about collections for Chester visited with y^e^ pestilence.

9.—The inhabitants of Rivington p̄sented a peticion unto y^e^ classis signifieinge theire desire to have one Mr. Walker for there minister, which said Mr. Walker also p̄sented himselfe.

THE PETITION OF RIVINGTON MEN.

Riveington petition for Mr. Walker.

To the reverend classis assembled att Bury the humble petition of y^e^ inhabitants of Riveington, Anlezarke, and places adjacent.

Humbly sheweth that whereas Mr. John Walker by preaching sev^r^all sabbaths att Riveington hath given very good content unto y^e^ congregation, therefore we on our owne and the behalfe of y^e^ rest earnestly desire that this reverend classis would be pleased to p̄mitt, assent, and approve y^t^ y^e^ s^d^ Mr. John Walker may officiate att our church att Riveington for and dureing such time as this reverend classis shall thinke fitt.

Subscribed :

Richard Fish.	Willm. Anderton.	James Pilkington.
Robt. Pendlebury.	Richard Tayler.	Thurstan Bradley.
Alex. ffielden.	Robert Leaver.	Richard Jepson.
James Brimble.	Tho. Brownley.	George Brownlow.
Henry Hodkinson.	John Croston.	Richard Brownlow.
James Barnes.	John Nightingale.	Evan Worsley.
Wm. Smith.	Richard Abbot.	Richard Brodhurst.
Peter Walkden.	Adam Scolecroft.	John Jolly.
George Hostize.	Rog^r^ Anderton.	Thomas Mahtgale.
James Jolly.	Peter Hamson.	George Shaw.
Richard Bromlow.	*Uxor.* Ra. Morris.	Richard Kershaw.
Henry Seddon.	Oliver Allins.	James Bullocke.
Jam. Anderton.	James Booth.	John Bullough.
Jeffery Pilkington.	Nicholas Waaddlington.	Robert Taylor.
Oliver Walker.	Tho. Sympson.	Tho. Clayton.
Wm. Jepson.	John Holland.	John Anderton.

Uxor. James Browne.	John Blaine.	John Morris.
Crofer Wood.	Tho. Bring.	James Tayler.
Giles Warde.	Abraham Gill.	George Jepson.
Gilbert Leigh.	John Brothurst.	Oaliver Simner.
James Isherwood.	Elis Rycroft.	Richard Waddington.

10.—Ordered that a like intimation in writeing be drawne upp and sent to Mr. John Walker and y^e^ congregation of Riveington as was appointed for Turton.

11.—ffourther enquirey into Mr. Brownes busines:

That Mr. Bradshaw of Wigan, Mr. Wood of Ashton in Makelsfield, Mr. Latham of Standish, and Mr. Johnson of Halsall, be further pressed to signifie under theire hands unto this classis what they know concerning Mr. Brown's late carriage.

12.—Mr. Allins, Mr. Symonds, Mr. Pollitts 2^d^ sum̄ons:

That Mr. Allins, Mr. Symonds, Mr. Pollitts be sent unto to appeare att our next meetinge.

13.—That y^e^ 11^th^ day of Novemb^r^ next be y^e^ day for our next meeteinge. Mr. John Walker be y^e^ preacher, and Mr. Gilbody moderator at that time.

The moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

Peter Bradshaw, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 9^th^ MEETING, November 11th day, 1647.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Gilbody, minister of Holcome, and moderator att that tyme.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, w^th^ Wm. Holte, Esq., and Arthur Smethurst, elders.

Mr. Bath, minister of Rochdale, w^th^ Mr. Wickins and Edward Ogden, elders.[1]

Mr. Goodwin, minist^r^ of Boulton, w^th^ Alex^r^ Norris and John Okey, eld^rs^.

Mr. Picke, minister of Radcliffe, w^th^ Richard Walker and Richard Hardman, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, with Rich^d^ Dickonson and Peter Winstanley, eld^rs^.

Mr. Tilsley, minister of Deane, w^th^ Henry Seddon, eld^r^.

Delegated and sent from y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps in this classis.

1.—The moderator began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Order for Mr. Allen:

Ordered That Mr. Allen, who hath long delayed, shall att or before the next meeteing make a full and absolute end and agreem^t^ one way or other w^th^ his people, and then to certifie the classis accordingly.

3.—Mr. Brown brought in a certificate as followeth:

Ormsk[irk], Novemb^r^ 2^d^, 1647.

Wee whose names are subscribed hereby certifie that Mr. Gerrard Browne hath for some years past beene minister of Gods word at Aighton and at y^e^ chappell of Maghull, during w^ch^ tyme he hath been labourous and diligent in preaching, and, for ought we know, of good conversation.

Willm. Dun. Tho. Johnson. Wm. Bell of Heyton.
Jos. Tompson. John Rudd. John Fogg.
John Worrall.

[1] Ogden, Edward (Edmund), elder for Rochdale. Colonel Fishwick identifies one of the name with Captain Ogden de Wood. He occurs as Edmund Ogden among the "protestors" of Spotland, and as constable of Rochdale parish 164½. Attends the classis very sparingly, and not after August, 1650. For several entries relating to his children see Fishwick's *Rochdale*, pp. 334, 373. "Mr. Edmund Ogden of Rochdale, and Martha, daughter of Mr. Tilsley, married, July, 1679" (*Northowram Register*); and see will of John Tilsley, p. 169 *Lanc. Wills* (Chetham Society), who leaves £200 for John and Mary Ogden, children of Edmund.

4.—Mr. Brown's approbation:

Noe material things being certified ag^t^ him by any of those ministers who had been so often sent unto, it is ordered that Mr. Browne be approved of to be minister of Blackrode, and his approbation given to him in writeing; itt is also to be signified that y^e^ classis doth desire that hee y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Browne may receive y^e^ stipend allowed out of sequestrations from y^e^ time he began to exercise his constant ministry at Blackrode.

5.—Mr. Walker this day preaching is approved of to be minister at Rivington, and that he be examined att y^e^ next meeting in reference to ordination.

6.—That Mr. James Rigby preach att y^e^ next meeting, and be examined in reference to ordination.

7.—Publication of y^e^ suspension of psons now ordered:

That an order for suspension of Alex^r^ Taylor and Margaret Southworth be drawne up and sent to Mr. Browne, minister of Blackrod, to be published in y^e^ congregation there.

8.—Mr. Symonds disapproved:

That Mr. Symonds not bringinge a certificate according to ordinance of parliam^t^ be disapproved of to be minister att Midleton.

9.—That Mr. Holte and Mr. Alte consult Mr. Angier about Mr. Pollitt cleareinge himselfe from certaine aspersions cast upon him.

10.—That y^e^ next meeting bee att Bury upon Thursday, December 9^th^, and Mr. Scholefield be moderator.

The moderator ended with prayer.

Robt. Gilbody, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 10th MEETING, December 9th, 1647.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Scholefield, minister of Heywood, wth James Hardman, eldr.

Mr. Harper, minister of Boulton, wth Roger Roscow and Adam ffearneside, eldrs.

Mr. Bath, minister of Roachdale, wth Mr. Wickins and John Scholefield, eldrs.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, wth Peter Holte, Esq., and Arthr Smethurst, eldrs.

Mr. Peeke, ministr of Radcliffe, wth Richard Walker and Robert ffogge, eldrs.

Mr. Tilsley, minister of Deane, wth Peter Rilence[1] and John Pendlebury,[2] elders.

Mr. Gilbody, minister of Holcome, with Thomas Browne and Arthr Crompton, eldrs.

Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, and Peter Winstanley, eldr.

Delegated and sent from the sevrall eldershippes of this classis.

1.—The moderator began with prayer.

[1] Rilence (Rylands, Rylance), Peter, elder for Deane, was of West Houghton, yeoman. For the family there in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries see *Local Gleanings*, vol. ii. pp. 225, 293, 299. The elder signs the protestation among the inhabitants of Deane, 164½, attends the classis irregularly up to January, 165¾, and died in 1663. See Rec. Soc., vol. ii. *Exchequer Depositions*, 1664: "Thos. Baxter *v.* Peter Ryland and Wm. Crompton, concerning the right and title to lands in Lawton and Newton."

[2] Pendlebury, John, elder for Deane. For the derivation of the family see *Local Gleanings*, vol. ii. p. 227. The elder signs the protestation among the inhabitants of West Houghton, 164½, but only attends the classis on two or three occasions. For one of the name see Newcome's *Autobiog.*, p. 353. Will at Somerset House (Pell, 341), John Pendlebury, of Ashton in Winwick, jointmaker. Mentions his children Anne, Mary, Margaret, and John, and his wife Margaret. Dated 12 Feb., 1658; proved 14 June, 1659.

2.—Ordered that Mr. Pollitt's approbation be delayed till y^e^ next meeting, although he have brought in a certificate w^ch^ is hereunto annexed, and that then hę be approved of if no materiall charge be brought in against him.

Mr. Pollitt's certificate:

Whereas there was some difference betwixt Mr. Pollitt and some of Chorleton, itt was by mutuall agreem^t^ and by direction of y^e^ community of minist^rs^ referred to Mr. Heyricke and Mr. Angier. The matter being fully debated and heard nothing was found before them (to their best remembrance) to ye p̄judice and scandall of Mr. Pollitt, but he was fairly dismissed from them.

Richard Heyricke, John Angier.

3.—A difference was signified to y^e^ classis to be in y^e^ congregation of Turton chappell; one part inclining to Mr. James Rigby, another p^t^ to one Mr. Ingham to be their minister.

It was answered that their business came not w^th^in y^e^ cognizance of the classis untill they resolve on whom to pitch.

4.—Mr. James Smith of Walmesley not appeareinge upon sum̄ons after this long expectation is againe to be sum̄oned.

5.—Mr. Uxeley preacher att Deane had in Yorkshire p̄sented his desire to be a preaching presbyter by this classis.

Ordered that he preach upon tryall before this classis att y^e^ next meeting.

6.—The next meeting to be upon Thursday y^e^ 13^th^ day of January next. Mr. Harper to be moderator.

Mr. Scholefield, y^e^ moderator, ended w^th^ prayer.

Jonathan Scholefield, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 11th MEETINGE, January ye 13th, 164⅞.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Harper, minister of Boulton, wth John Crompton and Ellis Bradshaw, eldrs.

Mr. Tilsley, ministr of Deane, wth Wm Tonge and John Roscow, eldrs.

Mr. Alte, ministr of Bury, wth Mr. Peter Holte, Mr. James Leech, Arthr Smethurst, eldrs.

Mr. Bath, minister of Roachdale, wth Rogr Whitworth,[1] John Wickins, Edmd Ogden, eldrs.

Mr. Picke, ministr of Radcliffe, wth Richrd Walker and Richard Hardman, eldrs.

Mr. Scholefield, ministr of Heywood, wth James Hardman, eldr.

Mr. Bradshaw, ministr of Cockey, with Richard Dickonson, eldr.

Mr. Gilbody, ministr of Holcome, wth Tho. Browne and Arthr Crompton, eldrs.

Delegated and sent from ye sevrall eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Harper, moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—A charge or information was lay'd in agt Mr. Pollitt by Tho. Hamond of Bury, as followeth:

a That Mr. Pollitt hath frequented malignants company, and gone into their quartrs.

b He hath beene an ordinary frequenter of prophane company, as comon and notorious swearers, comon and ordinary drunckerds.

c After publicke duties upon ye Lord's day he ordinarily spent ye tyme in pphane and ungodly company, omitting christian duties suitable for ye day.

[1] Whitworth, Roger, elder for Rochdale, signs the protestation among the inhabitants of Castleton, but was of a family long settled in Burdsell (see Fishwick's *Rochdale*, pp. 72, 294). He only attends the classis twice, but was evidently a strong Presbyterian. (See Oliver Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. iii. p. 110.)

d That itt hath been an ordinary thing in Mr. Pollitt his family to worke on fast dayes, and he himselfe to spend but little time in publicke duties, and that he and his wife to make their corne on a fast day, and that he wife did goe unto y^e^ packe milne and hyred a drysters did not give notice of y^e^ fast day to his peopel when itt was, and he could not but know that many of his people did ordinarily worke upon y^e^ fast day, yet did he not reprove them for itt.

e That Mr. Pollitt hath in his practice maintained episcopacy, sayeinge when the kinge was crowned he was sworne to maintaine that gov^r^m^t^, and if he must be king itt must remain, and that he must maintaine y^e^ ceremonyes, as y^e^ surplice and book of com̄on prayer, and that he was invested into them by that authority, and would not leave them till y^t^ authority tooke him from itt.

f That Mr. Pollitt hath been given to swearing and backbiting and slandering such of his chappellrie (where he hath some tyme officiated) as have been judged and accounted godly and pious men, and manifested much dislike of such kind of men by refraininge theire company and society.

g That Mr. Pollitt hath ordinarily allowed in his house swearinge and notorious swearers, and hath invited such to his house by eight or nine att a tyme.

h That Mr. Pollitt hath been a great burden to all or most places where he hath been minister, and that nine approved of for piety and soundness of judgm^t^ and well affected inhabitants within such places where he hath been minist^r^ have endeavoured by ways and means to remove him, accounting itt noe small judgm^t^ to have such a minist^r^.

i That Mr. Pollitt while he remained in the place where he last officiated seemed to be in nothing reformed after

he tooke the covenant, for he ordinarily frequented the company of malignants and society of prophane persons as swearers and pot companions as he did before, and never publickly manifested any sorrow for his malignancy and disordered conversation.

The ꝑceeding of y^e late comittee of ministers w^th Mr. Pollitt was certified as followeth :[1]

Att Preston, Aug^t 12^th, 1647.

fforasmuch as Mr. Pollitt of Chorlton chappell hath been formerly call'd to appeare before us and hath neglected, is not only unallowed by us as yet according to y^e ꝑvision of y^e ordinance of parliam^t, but hath been as appeared unto us convicted of scandalousness before y^e right wor^ppful y^e deputie lieutenants of this county, and thereupon hath been by them enjoined to forbeare his officiatinge in y^e ministery :

Wee therefore, whose names are subscribed, give notice to Mr. Pollitt to appeare before us att Wigan y^e 4^th day of September next comeinge, and in y^e meane tyme to forbear to officiate within this county in y^e ministry untill he appeare before us to answeare to such informations as are tendered to us ag^t him.

John Harper.	John Harrison.	Edward Gee.
Tho. Shawe.	Isaac Ambrose.	Paul Latham.
Wm. Ashton.	Tho. Johnson.	Wm. Bell.

[1] 13 December, 1644.

An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, for Ordaining Ministers in the County of Lancaster.

The Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament doe hereby Order and Ordain that Master Charles Herle, Master Richard Herick, Mr. James Hyet, Mr. William Ashton, Mr. William Ward, Mr. Alexander Horrocks, Mr. Johnson of Ellenborough, Mr. John Anger, Mr. William Bell, Mr. Edward Gee, Mr. Paul Lathom, Mr. John Harper, Mr. Richard Whitfield, Mr. James Wood, Mr. Johnson of Rochdale, Mr. John Tildesly, Mr. Richard Hollinworth, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. Isaac Ambrose, Mr. James Bradshaw, Mr. Robert Bath, or any seven of them, shall have full power, according to the Ordinance of the second of October, for the Ordination of Ministers *pro tempore*, to Ordain Ministers within the County of Lancaster : And if any person do publiquely preach or otherwise exercise any Ministeriall Office that shall not be

Ordered that Mr. Pollitt have notice of the charge lay'd ag^{t} him and be sum̄oned to appear next meeting, also sum̄ons to be issued out for witnesses to be examined.

3.—Mr. Smith of Walmesley not appeareinge is to be sum̄oned againe to appeare att y^{e} next meeting.

4.—Order for Mr. Allen:

That Mr. Allen send for a coppie of his approbation from ye Assembly of Divines att London, and shew y^{e} same to y^{e} classis att their meeting in March next.

5.—Sum̄ons for sundry ministers:

That Mr. Langley of Edenfield, Mr. Ramsbotham of Ashworth, Mr. Stevenson of Whitworth, Mr. Hill of Todmorden, and Mr. Shadwicke of Rotchdale be sum̄oned to appeare y^{e} next meeting.

6.—Sum̄ons for Joseph Grundy:

That Joseph Grundy of Deane be sumoned to appeare att y^{e} next meeting to answer Mr. Tilsley charging certain miscarriages upon him.

7.—The next meeting be y^{e} tenth day of february next. Moderator chosen for that tyme be Mr. Tilsley who is to preach that day.

The moderator ended wth prayer.

John Hearper, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 12th MEETING, ffebruary y^{e} 10th day, 164$\frac{7}{8}$.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, wth Peter Holte, Esq., James Leech, and John Kay and Arthur Smithurst, eld^{rs}.

ordained or thereunto allowed by seven of the said ministers, then their names shall be returned to both Houses of Parliament, to be dealt with as they in their wisdoms shall think fit.—Husband's *Ordinances*, p. 593; *Commons' Journals*, iii. 705.

Mr. Bath, minister of Roachdale, w^th^ John Wickins and Robert Pares, eld^rs^.

Mr. Pecke, minister of Radcliffe, w^th^ Richard Walker and Robt. ffogg, eld^rs^.

Mr. Goodwin, minist^r^ of Bolton, w^th^ Alex^r^ Norris, John Okey, John Andrews and Richard Medowcroft, eld^rs^.

Mr. Scholefield, minister of Heywood.

Mr. Gilbody, minister of Holcome, w^th^ Zachary Bridge and Wm. Holte, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bradshaw, minist^r^ of Cockey, with Richard Dickinson and Peter Winstanley.

Delegated and sent from the sev^r^all eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Tilsley of Deane absent, signified the cause of his not appearing, w^ch^ was judged sufficient. In his stead Mr. Alte, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Order for an extraordinary meeting:

Ordered. That upon Thursday, being the 24^th^ of this instant ffebruary, there be a classicall meeteinge att Bury for y^e^ discussinge of speciall busines concerning ourselves, and that the ministers and eld^rs^ now sittinge shall (if it may be) meet againe upon that day. However, that every congregationall eldershipp shall send a competant number.

3.—Order for Mr. Shadwicke:

Ordered that Mr. Shadwicke of Rochdale shall come in and certifie this classe att y^e^ next meeting in May [March] next about his aboade att or departure from Roachdale.

4.—Proceeding with Mr. Uxeley:

That Mr. Uxeley compose his thesis upon the question given him ag^t^ next meeting in March, and that then he be examined.

5.—That Mr. Smith of Walmesley appeare again att y^e^ next meeting and certifie y^e^ classis of his full resolution, either for staying att or departing from Walmesley chappell.

6.—That Mr. Ramsbotham, of Ashworth chappell, bring a

certificate from Manchestr classis of his good conversation heretofore dureing his aboade in those pts.

7.—Antinomians not suffered to preach at Todmorden:

That ye minists and churchwardens of Todmorden be sent unto and required that they suffer not Mr. Robt. Towne or any other knowen Antinomian preacher to preach at Todmorden.

8.—Mr. Langley and Mr. Stevenson two sumones:

That Mr. Langley and Mr. Stevenson not appeareing be againe sent unto to appeare ye next meeting.

9.—This day were the depositions taken of witnesses to the charge or information laid in the last day against Mr. Pollitt, preacher at Millrow.

Depositions of witnesses agt Mr. Pollitt:

George Jackson[1] of Houghend, aged 36, sworne and examined saith as to ye case of malignancy in Mr. Pollitt, that ye sd Mr. Pollitt, both in publick and private, upon all occations hath spoaken agt ye parliamt and their pceedings, and in all things he mainetained the king in his pceedings agt ye parliamt aledging scripture for that purpose, and greately incensinge others to the detrimt of ye publicke cause. Also to ye eighth article that he was a burden, etc. Also to ye 2d and 9th articles he deposeth that ye sd Mr. Pollitt was att an ale feast upon the day that ye parliamt forces were fighting against Warrington. Also to the first and ninth articles he deposeth that he did see and meet with Mr. Pollitt in company with Mr. Tollen and others of Withenshaw garrison.

GEORGE JACKSON.

[1] Jackson, George, see *Man. Min.*, p. 73. He signs the protestation among the inhabitants of Hardie, Manchester parish. Will at Somerset House (Brent, 314). Dated 9th September, 1652; proved 29th June, 1653. "I, George Jackson, of Hough End, Withington, yeoman, my tenement and tenant-right which I hold under my master Sr Edward Mosley, to my eldest son Richard Jackson, clerk, except the moietie which I give to my wife Anne; my son James 100li, my daughter Mary

Nathaniel Taylor of Marsleach within Withington, in y^e^ parish of Manchest^r^, sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ case of malignancy in Mr. Pollitt, he hath heard him ever spake ag^t^ y^e^ parliam^t^ and their partie and many of their ꝑceedings, saying y^e^ parliam^t^ was a body without a head, and as to y^e^ 6^th^ article that y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Pollitt used many deriding speeches ag^t^ y^e^ com̄and^rs^ of y^e^ parliam^t^ forces, and spake backbitingly of Mr. Burnes [*sic*, for Browne or Furness?] and other godly ministers. Also as to y^e^ 8^th^ article that he was a burden, etc. Also as to y^e^ 2^nd^ and 9^th^ article that he y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Pollitt was att an ale feast, etc. And when he was confined to his owne house, or about that time, he entertained cavaliers, in particular a souldier of Withingshaw garrison. Also that he did a long season in his constant ordinary com̄on course neglect knowen dutyes of Christianity and exercise of Religion in private conversation, as singing psalms in his family and conference. And as to y^e^ 6^th^ article, he y^e^ s^d^ depon^t^ hath heard Mr. Pollitt sweare often by his faith.

NATHANIEL TAYLOR.

Richard Button of Northenden, in Cheshire, sworne and examined sayth as to y^e^ 8^th^ article that he y^e^ s^d^ deponent saw Mr. Pollitt w^th^ Mr. Tollen and others of Withenshaw garrison, and that he was in their quarters and often in their company.

RICHARD BUTTON.

John Barlow of Chorleton, in y^e^ parish of Manchester, sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ 8^th^ article that he y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Pollitt was a burden, etc., and as to y^e^ second article that he hath seen y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Pollitt at y^e^ horse race on Barlow Moore, and as to y^e^ first article, that he heard y^e^ s^d^ Mr.

80^li^, Frances 80^li^, my kinsman Wm. Jackson of Brookesbank 10^s^, my brother-in-law John Hughes my cloak, etc.; my sister Elizabeth 20^s^, sister Anne 10^s^, remainder between my children Richard, James, Anne, Mary, Frances."

Pollitt confes to Mr. Hide of Denton that he went to Withenshaw, then being a garrison, to speake with Mr. Mallery of Northenden, a malignant pson.

JOHN BARLOWE.

Richard Hardman, junior, of Radcliffe, sworne and examined sayth as to y^e^ 8^th^ article that Mr. Pollitt whilst he was att Radcliffe was a burden, etc., in that he was an unprofitable preacher, and rudely came in contrary to y^e^ minde of them that ware reputed godly, and he was such an one as this deponent could have no X^tian^ society w^th^, and he was glad when they were ridd of him.

RICHARD HARDMAN.

Richard Hardman of Radcliffe, sen^r^, and Grace his wife sworne and examined say as to y^e^ 8^th^ article that Mr. Pollitt was a burden while he was att Radcliffe, and that they ware glad when they ware ridd of him for reasons next above menc̃oned.

RICHARD HARDMAN, senior, GRACE HARDMAN.

Henry Coleburne of Radcliffe, sworne and examined saith and deposeth same with Richard Hardman, senior, Richard Hardman, junior, Grace Hardman, ut supra.

Jeremiah Ainsworth, Zachary Bridge, John Holte, inhabitants of Holcome, sworne and examined say as to y^e^ eighth article that Mr. Pollitt being minister there was a burden to them in regard of his little edifyinge preaching, and in that he [they] could not enjoy any private christian conference with him in regard of his vaine conversation.

JEREMIAH AINSWORTH.
ZACHARY BRIDGE.
JOHN HOLTE.

Esther Wilson of Prestwich, sworne and examined sayth that while Mr. Pollitt was under Mr. Allin att Prestwich

his ministry was unprofitable, and as to y^e^ 8^th^ article that he was a burden, and that shee y^e^ s^d^ deponent desired her husband (who also looked upon Mr. Pollit as an unmeet instrument in that worke) that he would go to Mr. Allin to have y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Pollitt removed, but her husband did returne her answer that Mr. Allin would not remove [him] and this depon^t^ further saith that shee would be sorry for any people that must beare y^e^ like burden.

ESTHER WILSON.

Richard Ogden, sworne and examined deposeth and saith that as to y^e^ 8^th^ article y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Pollitt dureing his being att Prestwich was a greate burden to him, an inhabitant, etc., and that this deponent with many other Godly Christians went as oft as they could to other places, especially in y^e^ afternoone when Mr. Pollitt was to preach, and that he would be sorry for any people to be troubled with him except he would repent.

RICHARD OGDEN.

10.—The next meeting to be att Bury, March y^e^ 9^th^, 1647.

The moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

William Alte, moderator p tempore.

THE 13^th^ MEETING, ffebruary y^e^ 24^th^ day, 164$\frac{7}{8}$.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, w^th^ Mr. Peter Holte, Esq., Mr. James Leech, Thomas Hamond, and John Kay, eld^rs^.

Mr. Goodwin, minister of Boulton, w^th^ Mr. John Andrews and Mr. Alex^r^ Norris and Mr. John Okey and Mr. Richard Meadowcroft, eld^rs^.

Mr. Picke, minister of Radcliffe, w^th^ Richard Hardman, Richard Walker, and Robt. ffogg, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bath, minister of Roachdale, w^th^ Mr. John Wickins, Edward Dutton, James Stott, and Samuell Wild, eld^rs^.

Mr. Scholefield, minist^r^ of Heywood, w^th^ James Hardman, eld^r^.

Mr. Gilbody, minister of Holcome, with Zachary Bridge, Wm. Holte, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bradshaw, minist^r^ of Cockey, with Richard Dickonson.

Delegated and sent from y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps in this classis.

1.—Mr. Alte, chosen moderator, begun with prayer.

2.—Resolution of sundry questions att [this] an extraordinary meeting.

Resolved upon the question (nemine contradicent).

a That the Presbyterean church have their bounds whereby is knowen who belong to y^e^ sev^r^all congregationall eldershipps and who not.

b That those bounds of the Presbyterian churches are locall, and that y^e^ ancient reputed bounds of congregations are to be observed though they be in sev^r^all pishes. And if anything come in controversie this way, itt is to be deducted by the classis if y^e^ differing congregationall eldershipps cannot agree amongst themselves.

c That all within these bounds are to be obedient to there respective eldership.

d That a psons refuseinge to be ordred by y^e^ eld^r^ships within those bounds he or they are, may not be received and entertained by other eldershipps without or against the consent of y^e^ former,

e That people of different bounds, and soe under sev^r^all eldershipps, may not pmiscuously be admitted unto y^e^ Lord's Supper in any one congregation without any knowledg of or allowance from their respective eldershipps.

f That such as refuse to keepe in order by there congregationall eldershipps shall not upon y^e^ bare calling of

them into question before any sentence passed upon them have liberty to throw the government off and appeale to y^e^ classis.

g That a just sentence passed upon any ꝑson in an orderly way by his proper congregationall eldershippe, doth and shall stand firme ag^t^ y^e^ same ꝑson in all our churches that have any notice of itt.

h That baptisme shall not be administered in private houses, nor yet in y^e^ place of publicke assembly where there is not a sermon or exposition.

i That if anything be done by the eldershippe that gives distast to a particular private ꝑson (after just care taken for his satisfac̃on) either cañot or will not be satisfied in that w^ch^ concerns y^e^ quiet and good of the whole congregation, he ought not to disturbe y^e^ whole church for his owne private scruple.

j That he that for his owne private scruple shall continue disobedient, contemneing and speaking evill of his governors (though they have fully endeavoured to satisfie), and shall soe hazard to sett on foote factions and divisions in y^e^ congregation, he ought to be ꝓceeded ag^t^ as a disorderley walker.

The moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

Wm. Alte, moderator ꝑ tempore.

THE 14^th^ MEETING, March y^e^ 9^th^ day, 164$\frac{7}{8}$.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Bath, minister of Roachdale, w^th^ Mr. John Wickins and Roger Whitworth, eld^rs^.

Mr. Harper, minister of Boulton, w^th^ Adam ffearneside and Roger Roscowe, eld^rs^.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, w^th^ Peter Holte, Esq., Arth^r^ Smethurst, and John Kay, eld^rs^.

Mr. Picke, minist^r^ of Radcliffe, w^th^ Richard Walker, Rich. Hardman, and Robt. ffogg, eld^rs^.

Mr. Tilsley, minister of Deane, w^th^ Joshua Asley and John Munkes of Deane, eld^rs^.

Mr. Scholefielde, minister of Heywood, w^th^ James Hardman and Jo. Ashworth, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, w^th^ Peter Winstanley, eld^r^.

Delegated and sent from y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps in this classis.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Mr. Walton desire to remove from Horridge.

Mr. Walton this day signifieinge his desire to remove from Horridge chappell motioned for a dismission. Itt was thought fitt that the inhabitants of Horridge be sent unto ag^t^ y^e^ next meeting, to alledge what they can on their owne behalfe, and to shew cause why he, y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Walton, may not be dismissed from them.

3.—Ordered that Mr. Smith of Walmesley repare to y^e^ classis att y^e^ next meeting to signifie his desire of ordination or else to desist from preaching att Walmesley chappell.

4.—Mr. Pollitt dismissed from attending y^e^ classis, and an order made y^t^ y^e^ examinations and depositions of witnesses being finished, y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Pollitt at his desire shall have a coppie of y^e^ charge and depositions, and have sum̄ons from y^e^ moderator to bring in witnesses to be examined on his owne behalfe.

5.—Mr. Latham of Bury, sum̄oned:

That Mr. Latham of Bury, who never acted in y^e^ goverm^t^ either as a member of y^e^ congregationall presbytery, or classicall, shall be sum̄oned to appear att y^e^ next meeting to shew cause of his s^d^ neglect.

6.—That notice be sent to Mr. Ashton, parson of Midleton, that Mr. Symonds is disallowed by this classis, and that it is expected from him, the said Mr. Ashton, that Mr. Symonds be not suffered to preach there.

7.—That an inhibition be sent to Mr. Langley that he preach not att Edenfield till satisfaction be given by him unto this classis.

8.—That Mr. Stevenson be againe sum̄oned to appeare at y^e^ next meeting.

9.—That y^e^ next meeting be upon Thursday, y^e^ 13^th^ day of Aprill. Mr. Ramsbotham to preach.

Mr. Bath, y^e^ moderator, ended w^th^ prayer.

Robt. Bath, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 15^th^ MEETING, March y^e^ 23, 164$\frac{7}{8}$.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Bath, minist^r^ of Roachdale, w^th^ Robt. Pares, elder.

Mr. Harper, minist^r^ of Boulton, w^th^ Richard Bradshaw, Adam ffearneside, eld^rs^.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, w^th^ Tho. Hamond and Arth^r^ Smethurst, eld^rs^.

Mr. Pecke, minist^r^ of Radcliffe, w^th^ Rich. Walker and Robt. ffogg, eld^rs^.

Mr. Scholefield, minister of Heywood, w^th^ James Hardman and John Ashworth.

Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, w^th^ Rich. Dickonson, eld^r^.

Delegated and sent from y^e^ severall eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Bath, moderator, begun w^th^ prayer.

Resolutions of sundry questions att [this] an extraordinary meeting.

2.—Resolved upon y^e^ question (nemine contradicente) that y^e^ sev^r^all elderships ought in tyme convenient to require such particular member w^th^in there bounds y^t^ are at age convenient and

come not for admission to the Lord's Supper to appeare before them and shew reason of there neglect.

3.—Resolved that y^e^ respective eldershipps convert those that are seemeingly [fit] for admission rather and before those that are apparently unfitt.

4.—Resolved that ꝑsons examined and approved of and yett refusing or notably neglecteinge to participate in the Lord's Supper be convened to shew cause of there refuseall and neglectt.

5.—Resolved that noe man can be sufficiently excused from neglect of his duty by any scruple.

6.—The question wheth^r^ the neglectt of duty und^r^ ꝑtence of religious scruple or in a plain way of ꝑphanes be more dangerous to be discussed at y^e^ next extraordinary meeting.

7.—That ministers as well as private christians are questionable for neglect of duty.

8.—Resolved that y^e^ classis must question offending ministers.

9.—The question whether y^e^ congregationall eldershipe hath power to judge of any particular elder, a member thereof, to be discussed at y^e^ next extraordinary meeting.

10.—That for a minister to neglectt y^e^ administration of and communicateing in y^e^ sacram^t^ of y^e^ Lord's Supper w^th^ his congregation or to withhold his child from baptisme longer than is fitting is a neglectt of his duty.

11.—That Mr. Horrocks be moderator att y^e^ next meeting, April y^e^ 13, 1648.

Robert Bath, moderator ꝑ tempore.

Mr. Bath, y^e^ moderator, ended w^th^ prayer.

THE 16th MEETING, April 13th, 1648.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Horrocks, minister of Deane, wth Tho. Leigh, Richd. Mather, Edmd Ogden, eldrs.

Mr. Bath, ministr of Rochdale, with James Stott, eldr.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, wth Peter Holte, Esq., Arth. Snrethurst, Jon Kay, eldrs.

Mr. Picke, minister of Radcliffe, wth Richard Hardman, Richard Walker, and Robt. ffogg, eldrs.

Mr. Goodwin, ministr of Boulton, wth Mr. Richrd Meadowcroft, Jon Yates, eldrs.

Mr. Scholefield, ministr of Heywood, wth John Ashworth, eldr.

Mr. Gilbody, ministr of Holcome, wth Wm. Holte and Arthr Crompton, eldrs.

Delegated and sent from ye sevrall eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Horrocks, moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Mr. Walton dismissed from Horridge:

> It is ordered that seeing nothing is duely alledged to ye contrary by the people of Horridge, theire present ministr Mr. Walton upon his desire wth reasons, be dismissed quietly from Horridge, they paying him his arreares due, and that hereof he have a Testimoniall from this classis.

3.—That Mr. Langley contemptuously refusing to appeare upon his third sum̄ons be inhibited from preaching at Eatonfield chappell, and ye inhibition drawne up be sent to ye churchwarden there.

4.—That Mr. Uxley do bring wth his othr certificates one certificate from ye people of Madop in Yorkeshire expressing there desires of having the sd Mr. Uxley to be there minister.

5.—That ye next meeting be upon ye 11th day of May next, 1648.

Mr. Picke, chosen moderator. Mr. Stevenson, minister of Whitworth, to preach upon that text in y^e^ 2^nd^ Tim., 2^nd^ 15^th^.

The moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

Alex^r^ Horrocks, moderator p tempore.

THE 17^th^ MEETING, May y^e^ 11^th^ day, 1648.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Picke, minist^r^ of Radcliffe, w^th^ Richard Walker, Robt. ffogg, eld^rs^.

Mr. Harper, minist^r^ of Boulton, w^th^ Mr. Alex^r^ Norris and John Okey, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bath, minist^r^ of Roachdale, w^th^ Ja. Stott and John Scholefield, elders.

Mr. Alte, minist^r^ of Bury, w^th^ Peter Holte, Arth. Smethurst, and Jo^n^ Kay, eld^rs^.

Mr. Tilsley, minist^r^ of Deane, w^th^ Ellis Brooke and Giles Edge,[1] eld^rs^.

[1] Edge, Giles, elder for Deane, yeoman, of Middle Hulton (Deane parish), appears among the protestors of Middle Hulton in 164½ (see Rec. Soc., vol. i. p. 62, for one of the same name in Aspull, Wigan parish, in 1650). He attended the classis with some regularity up to the close. Newcome (*Diary*, p. 45) speaks of "Old Gyles Edge," and preached at his funeral, January 17th, 166½. (Doubtless the Giles Edge of Manchester, of whom see *Dugdale's Visit.*, p. 112.)

Chester Registry. Will of Giles Edge of Middle Hulton, yeoman, dated 25 May, 1677; proved 14 July, 1677. "To all the poor people that shall come to my funeral 2^d^ each, and to the poor of Middle Hulton 40^s^, to the minister which shall preach my funeral sermon 20^s^, Richard Edge, my nephew, my messuage and tenement in Hulton, and certain furniture, residue of goods to John Bullough, Anne Smyth (wife of Symon Smyth of Atherton), and Margrett Lightbourne, wife of Thomas Lightbourne of Halliwell, and sisters of the said John Bullough, and three of the younger children of Robert Bullough, late of Little Hulton, deceased, and Alice his wife, my late sister." Inventory, 14 June, 1677, £68 12s.

Mr. Scholefield, minister of Heywood, w^th^ James Hardman, eld^r^.
Mr. Gilbody, minist^r^ of Holcome, w^th^ Thomas Browne and Zachary Bridge, eld^rs^.
Mr. Bradshaw, minist^r^ of Cockey, w^th^ Richard Dickenson, eld^r^.

Being assembled as delegated and sent from y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Picke, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ordered that Mr. Ramsbotham of Ashworth chapple shall have his approbation (haveing this day preached before y^e^ classis in y^e^ non appearance of Mr. Stevenson) att y^e^ next meeting if nothing be objected ag^t^ him by his people. Hereof notice to be sent to y^e^ people.

3.—That Mr. Symons, preacher att Midleton, shall preach here att Bury before y^e^ classis att there next meeteing, June y^e^ 15^th^, upon such a subjectt as shall be tendred unto him by y^e^ moderator p̄ tempore, and then he produce a certificate, such an one as ye ordinance of parliam^tt^ requireth.

4.—Ordered that Mr. Harper and Mr. Tilsley draw up particulars to be insisted upon by Mr. Symonds in his sermon.

5.—Complaint to a Justice of Peace:

That complaint be made to a Justice of Peace of those minist^rs^ that have contemned y^e^ orders of y^e^ classis.

6.—That y^e^ next meeting be June y^e^ 15 day, Mr. Tilsley to be then moderator.

Mr. Picke, moderator, ended w^th^ prayer.

Tho. Picke, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 18^th^ MEETING, June y^e^ 15^th^ day, 1648.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Tilsley, minist^r^ of Deane, w^th^ Henry Seddon and Hugh Parr, eld^rs^.

Mr. Alte, minist^{r} of Bury, wth Peter Holte, Esq., James Leech, and Arth^{r} Smithurst, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Bath, minister of Rochdale, wth Samuell Wild and John Schofield, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Picke, minist^{r} of Radcliffe, wth Rich^{d} Walker and Robt. ffogg, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Goodwin, minister of Boulton, wth Adam ffearneside and Richard Bradshaw, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Schofield, minister of Haywood, wth James Hardman, eld^{r}.

Mr. Gilbody, minist^{r} of Holcome, wth Wm. Holte and Arth. Crompton, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Bradshaw, minist^{r} of Cockey.

Delegated and sent from y^{e} sev^{r}all eldershipps in this classis.

1.—Mr. Tilsley, moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Order for Mr. Hill of Todmorden:

It is ordered that Mr. Hill of Todmorden, desireing approbation, be appointed to preach att y^{e} next meeting before y^{e} classis upon that text in y^{e} first of Thes., 1–10, and that y^{e} moderator signifie to y^{e} inhabitants of Todmorden to bring in any exceptions that they have to make ag^{t} him, else that he receive approbation from this classis.

Mr. Bath to see to y^{e} publication of notice hereof.

3.—An intimation received from y^{e} first classis concerning a meeting att Preston as followeth:

Reverend and beloved brethren,

We haveing received ord^{r} from this ꝑvince to acte ꝑvincially, a coppy whereof we have here sent inclosed, our earnest desire is that you would send some ministers and eld^{rs} to Preston on Wednesday, y^{e} 5th of July next, there to consider about y^{e} appointing of y^{e} first provinciall meeting as may be to y^{e} best convenience of y^{e} sev^{r}all classes.

Subscribed in y^{e} name of y^{e} classis by me Toby ffornese, moderator ꝑ tempore.

To our Reverend brethren y^{e} ministers and eld^{rs} of y^{e} classis att Bury: these present.

[Enclosure referred to.]

May 22 1648.

All y^e^ comittee of Lords and comons ffor judgeinge of scandalls :

Ordered that y^e^ nyne classes of Lancashire shall be one province for that county, and accordingly may actt as a province. FFRANCIS ROWSE.

4.—Deputation for Preston meeting, July y^e^ 5^th^ :

Ordered that Mr. Harper, minist^r^ of Boulton, Mr. Walmesley of Deane, and Richard Bradshaw of Boulton, eld^rs^, be deputed to attend y^e^ meeting att Preston, upon Wednesday, July y^e^ 5^th^, and deputation of that service to be given them under y^e^ moderator hand.

5.—Mr. Ramsbotham approbation :

It is ordered that Mr. Ramsbotham of Ashworth chappell have y^e^ approbation of this classis, nothing being alledged ag^t^ [him] only that he be admonished by y^e^ moderator concerninge clandestine marriages and baptisinge of bastards.

6.—A charge or information of Ellis Bradshaw :

A charge or information presented unto y^e^ classis from y^e^ presbytery att Boulton ag^t^ one Ellis Bradshaw of Tonge, in y^e^ pish of Boulton, eld^r^ as followeth :

June y^e^ 9^th^, 1648.

Reverend Brethren,

fforasmuch as Ellis Bradshaw of Tonge (one of y^e^ elders of the congregation of Boulton) hath for divers months past absented and yett doth absent himselfe from y^e^ weekely meetings of y^e^ presbytery there, notwithstanding he hath been desired to waite on his office, wee therefore thought itt our duty to acquaint this assembly w^th^ that and others his disorders contained in a schedule annexed, desireing that such cours may be taken by you in this matter as may tend to discharge of your duty and his reformation, etc.

John Harper, moderator p tempore.

The schedule that he hath long openly and wilfully neglected his duty: 2 that he hazards the peace and quiet of the congregation: 3 That he hath slandered y^e^ eldershipp.

Ordered that Ellis Bradshaw be sum̄oned to appeare at y^e^ next meeting to answer unto his charge.

7.—Mr. Symonds inhibition:

It is ordered that Mr. Robt. Symonds be inhibited preaching, etc., as followeth in y^e^ inhibition drawne up by the moderator in y^e^ name of y^e^ classis:

Whereas Mr. Robt. Symonds hath been sum̄oned to appeare before this classis to give them due satisfaction that he might receive approbation of this classis, the s^d^ Mr. Symonds being required (upon his appearance) to p̄cure a sufficient and sattisfactory certificate hath failed therein; furthermore being appointed to preach on a certine subjectt, in discharge thereof hath no waye satisfied y^e^ classis, and being required to deliver to y^e^ s^d^ classis a coppie of his sermon y^t^ y^e^ grounds and particulars of there unsattisfiedness might be cleared, etc., to him, he refused or waived the same. His carriage also upon his appearance being such as tended much to y^e^ affront and contempt of the classis, as also of that civill authority w^th^ which thei are backed: Also y^e^ behaviour and expressions of those he brought with him being such as both imported contempt of and terror to y^e^ s^d^ classis, itt is therefore concluded and ordered that y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Symonds is and standeth inhibited (by authority of y^e^ s^d^ classis) y^e^ exercise of preaching, and all other ministereall exercises whatever within the compass of y^e^ Jurisdiction of this classis, and particularly at Midleton, till such time as he shall give y^e^ s^d^ classis satisfaction in y^e^ premises and such other particulars as by authoritie of parliam^t^ they are inabled to demand and require.

Subscribed in y^e^ name of y^e^ classis by me, John Tilsley, moderator p̄ tempore.

8.—Sum̄ons for y^e^ ministers that have not appeared:

It is ordered that a sum̄ons be sent by y^e^ moderator for y^e^ appearance of Mr. Allin, Mr. Shadwick, and Mr. Stevenson att ye next meeting, and y^e^ s^d^ sum̄ons be sent to Mr. Bath to see it executed.

9.—That ye next meeting be July y^e^ 13^th^ next, Mr. Bradshaw chosen moderator for that time.

Mr. Tilsley, y^e^ moderator, ended w^th^ prayer.

Mr. Tilsley, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 19^th^ MEETING, July y^e^ 13 1648.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Bradshaw, minist^r^ of Cockey, w^th^ Rich^rd^ Dickonson, eld^r^.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, w^th^ Peter Holte, Esq., Tho. Hamond, and Arthur Smethurst, eld^rs^.

Mr. Harp, minister of Boulton, w^th^ Mr. Jo^n^ Andrews, Mr. Rich^rd^ Bradshaw, and Roger Roscow, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bath, minister of Rochdale, w^th^ Mr. Jo^n^ Wickins and Ja. Stott, eld^rs^.

Mr. Picke, minist^r^ of Radcliffe, w^th^ Richard Walker, eld^r^.

Delegated and sent from y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Bradshaw, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ordered. fforasmuch as Mr. Chadwicke of Roachdale was sum̄oned to appeare att this meeting, and did not so appeare, but made an unsatisfactory apologie by letter, that he be againe sumoned to make his p̄sonall appearance without further delay att y^e^ next meeting.

3.—Mr. Allin's certificate:

Mr. Allin, sum̄oned, appeared not, but sent a certificate that he p̄mised to p̄cure from London, as followeth:

June y^e^ 17, Ano Dni, 1647.

Wee whose names are subscribed do certifie that Mr. Isaac Allin of Litlebrough is an able orthodox divine, of a pious life and conversation, in witnesse whereof we have heareunto put our hands y^e^ day and yeare first above written.

Charles Herle, Richard Johnson.

Vera copia, exam. p John Phelps.

This certificate not answering y^e^ expectation of the classis itt is ordered that Mr. Allin be sum̄oned psonally to appeare att y^e^ next meeting.

4.—Mr. Hill's approbation:

Mr. Hill of Todmorden preaching this day before the classis, and being further conferred w^th^ was well liked of, and noe exceptions layd in ag^t^ him he was approved of, but itt was stayd till y^e^ next meeting, that y^e^ people of Todmorden might have notice thereof because former notice was not published.

5.—Mr. Stevenson appeareing shewed y^e^ occation of his former faileings by non appearance:

Ordered that he preach before y^e^ classis att y^e^ next meeting upon y^e^ text formerly assigned him.

6.—Rivington peticon. A petition being presented containing a request of y^e^ people of Riveington for y^e^ hasting of Mr. Walker's ordination as speedily as might be because of there great distance from Boulton putting them upon great inconveniences for baptisme, etc.:

Ordered that Mr. Walker be pceeded w^th^ att y^e^ next meeting in order to his ordination.

7.—Appearence of Ellis Bradshaw upon sum̄ons:

Ellis Bradshaw, being sum̄oned, appeared to answer to his charge layd in y^e^ last day ag^t^ him. Some pceedings there was in proofe of pticulars; he denyed, but itt was thought good to take some other course there.

Mr. Alte, Mr. Picke, Mr. Bradshaw ware desired to deal w^th^ y^e^ s^d^ Ellis by some good meanes for peace and quietnes, and thereof to certifie att y^e^ next meeting w^ch^ is to be on Thursday, y^e^ 3^rd^ day of August next, 1648.

Y^e^ moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

Peter Bradshaw, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 20^th^ MEETING, August y^e^ 3^rd^ day, 1648.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Tilsley, minister of Deane, chosen moderator for y^e^ tyme.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, with Peter Holte, Esq., and Aurther Smithurst, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bath, minister of Roachdale, w^th^ Robt. Pares and Jo^n^ Schofield, eld^rs^.

Mr. Goodwin, minister of Boulton, w^th^ Adam ffearnside and Jo^n^ Yates, eld^rs^.

Mr. Picke, minist^r^ of Radcliffe, w^th^ Richard Hardman and Robt. ffogg, eld^rs^.

Mr. Schofield, minister of Heywood, w^th^ James Hardman, eld^r^.

Mr. Gilbody, minister of Holcome, w^th^ Tho. Browne and Zachary Bridge, w^th^ Wm. Holte, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, w^th^ Richard Dickonson eld^r^.

Delegated and sent from y^e^ severall eldershipps in this classis.

1.—The moderator begune w^th^ prayer.

2.—Order for Mr. Shadwick:

Mr. Shadwicke of Rochdale now appeareing upon his sum̄ons excused himself for not appeareing formerly; being put to itt to resolve, as he yett desired further tyme, upon debate itt was concluded and vocited that he shall returne a finall resolution (concerning his staye at Rochdale or his

removall) att y^e^ next meeting or att y^e^ next but one finally, else to be ꝑceeded ag^t^, and w^th^all if he resolve to staye there he shall joyne in carrying on y^e^ gov^n^ment.

3.—Mr. Hill appeared. Nothing being certified ag^t^ him he is approved.

4.—ffinal orders for Mr. Allin :

Mr. Allin appeared upon his sum̄ons. Att his request is respited till y^e^ next meeting to give a finall resolution whether he stay att Litlebrough or noe by reason of some motions of his returne to Prestwich, and thereupon to be ꝑceeded with as y^e^ matter shall require.

5.—Order for Richard Heywood of Boulton parish about his appeale :

Rich^rd^ Heywood,[1] of Boulton parish (upon debate of y^e^ whole busines of his suspension by y^e^ presbytery att Boulton)

[1] For Richard Heywood see the life by his son Oliver, and for the transaction in the text Oliver Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. i. p. 27, and "*Whole Works*," vol. i. p. 580. "In the year 1647 the Presbyterian government being setled at Boulton, the ministers together with the eldership, made an order after examination and approbation of the communicants, that every time they were to come to the Lord's Supper every particular communicant should upon the Friday before fetch a little ticket of lead of the elders, and shew it to the elders again in the church before they were to receive the Sacrament." Richard Heywood, Robert Crompton, Roger Roscow with others objected to the regulation. Heywood was called before the Presbytery as the ringleader, and finally suspended from the Supper. He appealed to the classis, but "though the classis was unsatisfyed in the proceedings of the eldership they were loth to censure them; only desired them to passe it by and admit him to the Supper, but when they trifled about it and did nothing, my father made an appeal from the classical presbytery at Bury to the Provincial Assembly at Preston, and after the business had been debated there, they made an order that the congregational eldership of Bolton should revoke their sentence of suspension, exhorting both sides to a mutual acomodation, and as I remember the tickets, the occasion of this contention, was by this time laid aside. When this came to the ministers and elders of Bolton church they something stickled at his restauration without his submission. However, they were bound to obey the order of the Provincial Assembly, and at last framed a paper w^ch^ was read in the church, wherein they freed Richard Heywood from his suspension, but withal made some hints therein as though he had submitted himself, which he did not, and so it was not at all satisfactory to him, and I think he never joined with them at the Lord's Supper afterwards, but was enterteyned at Cockey and all places about."

is allowed in case he be necessarily occasioned to be absent from home to deliver in his appeale by a proxie if he remaine still unsatisfied in conscience concerning the justnes of y^e^ censure upon view thereof, and that ꝓceeding bee in the same thereupon.

6.—Mr. Stevenson this day preached before y^e^ classis, and after admonition concerning divers matters itt is concluded and ordred that if nothinge be alleaged ag^t^ him by the congregation of Whitworth upon notice given therein, then y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Stevenson shall receive the approbation of this classis.

7.—Complaint against Mr. Briscow :

Upon complaint made of one Mr. Briscow, preacher att Walmesley [who is at present officiating] without approbation [of this classis] or desire of ordination, and there being just cause of feare that he is ill affected to y^e^ goverment^t^ and contrarily minded, itt is ordred that he be sent for to appear at y^e^ next meeting.

8.—Deputation for y^e^ provinciall meeting att Preston :

Ordered and concluded that Mr. Alte, Mr. Harper, and Mr. Bath, ministrs, together w^th^ Mr. Holte, Mr. Meadowcroft, John Scholefield, Henery Mollinex, Rich^rd^ Dickonson, and Rich^rd^ Walker, eld^rs^, be deputed to attend y^e^ service of y^e^ Provinciall Assembly att Preston, August y^e^ 8^th^ day, and that y^e^ moderator furnish them w^th^ a deputation thereto.

9.—Ordered that these quearies be propounded at y^e^ Provinciall Assembly for satisfaction in them.

Questions to be propounded att y^e^ Provinciall Assembly :

a Whether an elder offending is to be tryed first by y^e^ eldershipps whereof he is a member or by y^e^ classis first.

b In whatt kinde or cases an eldershippe is to be esteemed as a party haveing to deale either with elder or number of there owne. Soe as y^e^ matter is to be brought to y^e^ classis at y^e^ 1^st^ heareinge.

10.—A petition was presented to y^e^ classis from y^e^ inhabitants of Midleton, and an answer thereto returned as followeth :

MIDLETON PETITION ABOUT MR. SYMONDS.

To y^e^ right Reverend y^e^ classis att Bury, in y^e^ Province of Lancaster.

The humble petition of us whose names are subscribed in y^e^ behalfe of our selves and other inhabitants within y^e^ pish of Midleton humbly sheweth :

That ye petitioners are much grieved that there assembly att Bury y^e^ 15^th^ of June [gave] you offence, affirming that [those of] y^e^ congregation [attended] upon noe contemptuous intent or disobedient disposition, but only in hope and desire to see and heare Mr. Symonds there curate cleare himselfe of such imputations as he was suspected of, and if any particular ꝑson either in words or gesture have appeared to be any ways disrespective either unto yo^r^ ꝑsons or places we wish y^t^ condigne punishment might be inflicted upon them, and most humbly pray that the fault may not be imputed upon y^e^ assembly in general. And whereas you have awarded an ord^r^ whereby our said curate is suspended, in obedience unto w^ch^ order he hath not since preached att Midleton, by reason whereof we are destitute, and have been necessitated to be troublesome unto others to suply his place to y^e^ greatt p^r^judice of other congregations and parts ; and forasmuch as no other can conveniently be admitted unto that place w^th^out y^e^ presence and approbation of y^e^ Right Wor^ll^ Collonell Ashton, but that y^e^ place is like to remaine empty to y^e^ great detriment not only of our owne parish but of other parishes w^ch^ are adjacent to y^e^ church, and far remoate from there owne parish churches, except you shew yo^r^ charitable and good inclination towards our soules helth and the advancm^t^ of God's glory. In tender consideration and com̄iserc̄on of w^ch^ premises yo^r^ petico^nrs^ most humbly pray that you would give ord^r^ that Mr. Symonds may be admitted to supply his place untill y^e^ returne of Collonell Ashton, and that such further order be

therein taken as in your gracious wisdomes shall seeme expedient. And yo^{r} peti$\tilde{c}$oners, etc.

John Hopwood.	John Gee.	Edw^{d} Taylor.
Richard Radcliffe.	Sam^{l} Hilton.	Symon Kent.
James Taylor.	Robt. Lees.	John Wrigley.
Rich^{d} Hilton.	Richrd Taylor.	Robt. Sexton.
John Lord.	Adam Key.	Robt. Maden.
Hen. Wrigley.	Hugh Hilton.	Henry Mercer.
Robt. Hilton.	Josh. Ogden.	Ja. Wolstenholme.
Tho. Taylor.	Ja. Hilton.	Ja. Ridings.
Wm. Lees.	Jo^{n} Butterworth.	Edw. Heywood.
Geo. Scoles.	Sam^{l} Hilton, jun^{r}.	
	George Booth.	Abr. Wilde.
	Richard Burch.	Robt. Hilton, *Gardians.*

11.—Answer to Midleton petition :

The classis ordred the moderator to returne this followeinge answer to y^{e} peti$\tilde{c}$on^{rs}.

Upon heareinge and consideration of yo^{r} petition the classis returneth this answer, that Mr. Symonds was not inhibited for ye cause pointed att in y^{e} petition, viz^{t}: the carrage of those that came wth him, that being only an aggravation, but for other wayghty causes expressed in y^{e} inhibition, w^{ch} being not at all as yett removed, they see not how they may withdraw there inhibition. They further declare [there sympathy with the petitioners in the matter of ministerial supply alledged] in y^{e} petition if y^{e} defect be as is there declared, and shall do there utmost endever to further them in all lawfull ways for there supply. As to y^{e} absence of y^{e} right wor^{ll} Collonell Ashton, they ware before purposed, and are now resolved to signifie to him (for his satisfaction) y^{e} method of there ꝑceedings and grounds of y^{e} inhibition by lett^{r} or messeng^{rs} of there owne, and in case any further satisfaction can be given to y^{e} classis thereupon or att

his returne by Collonell Ashton, they will be ready and willing to proceede accordingly, and relaxe him from y^e^ inhibition.

Signed, John Tilsley, moderator p tempore.

12.—Ordered y^e^ next meeting to be Sept. y^e^ 12, Mr. Goodwin to be moderator att that time, and also to preach.

The moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

John Tilsley, moderator p tempore.

THE 21^st^ MEETING, Sept. y^e^ 12, 1648.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Goodwin, minist^r^ of Boulton, w^th^ Mr. Richard Meadowcroft and Mr. John Okey, eld^rs^.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, w^th^ Arth. Smithurst and John Key, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bath, minist^r^ of Roachdale, w^th^ Mr. John Wickins and Samuel Wild, eld^rs^.

Mr. Tilsley, minister of Deane, w^th^ Mr. Tonge and John Roscow, eld^rs^.

Mr. Picke, minist^r^ of Radcliffe, w^th^ Rich. Hardman, Rich. Walker, and Robt. ffogg, eld^rs^.

Mr. Gilbody, minist^r^ of Holcome, w^th^ Arth. Crompton and Tho. Browne, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bradshaw, minist^r^ of Cockey, w^th^ Rich. Dickonson, eld^r^.

Delegated and sent from y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Goodwin, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Order for Mr. Allin:

Ordered that where as Mr. Allin had promised to give in a finall answer att this tyme concerning his staying or not att Litlebrough, but matters not yet being determined betwixt him and y^e^ inhabitants of Prestwich as he alledgeth,

he desired one month more to give in his answer, his desires be granted.

3.—Order for Mr. Pollitt:

That whereas Mr. Pollitt hath been formily accused of sev^rall miscarrages and hath desired a coppy of his accusations and now itt being ready comes not for itt he be sent to [to] require him to come and take his accusations, and either clere himselfe or expect ꝓceedings ag^t him.

4.—Mr. Langly of Edenfield complained of to a Justice:

That whereas Mr. Langley haveing usurpped y^e place of a minister att Edenfield, and there acts disorderly and unwarrantably, and hath sev^rall times been sent to by y^e classis, but hath still refused to come before them, and goes on contemptuously in his disorder, he be complained of to a justice of peace that he may be dealt with according to ordinance of parlim^t in that case.

5.—Order for Mr. Bradshaw to be register:

That Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey chappel, be desired and upon his graunt there to be hereby authorized to be Register unto y^e classis.

6.—That Mr. Stevenson busines be enquired after att y^e next classicall meeting.

7.—Mr. Briscow's sum̄ons:

Mr. Briscowe, preacher att Walmesley, not being thereto approved by y^e classis concerning his preaching att Walmesley, he returned answer in writeing that when he should know or could conceive any just ground of dissatisfaction in y^e perticular, he should be ready chearefully to give to y^e classis (as to any that in y^e name of Christ should require itt) an account thereof in his preaching, soe as he could not tell that he had therein gone beyond y^e reche of y^e Word, etc. Ordered that he be againe sent for, and that itt be signified to him that his going on to preach without tryall approbation and ordination (as he hath done) is not warrantable.

8.—Order for Mr. ffellgate :

That Mr. ffellgate be permitted to preach at Midleton for y^e^ further discovery of y^e^ ꝑsons and the peoples likeing of him, and also in reference to ordination that he preach before y^e^ classis att y^e^ next meeting upon Tim. 2^d^ 24^th^.

9.—Deputation for Preston :

That y^e^ same minist^r^ and eld^rs^ that went y^e^ last tyme to Preston shall againe goe thither upon y^e^ same occasion, and that a deputation be given them by y^e^ moderator ꝑ tempore.

10.—The ruleing elders of Holcome put in a charge of sev^r^all articles ag^t^ Mr. Gilbody there minister, as followeth :

Information ag^t^ Mr. Gilbody of Holcome.

We desire to present this information to this reverend classis concerning y^e^ carrage of Mr. Robt. Gilbody, minister of Holcome.

a That y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Robt. Gilbody frequents y^e^ ale house not only in y^e^ weeke days three or four hours together and sometimes till eight or nine of y^e^ clock in y^e^ night, but also ordinarily on Sabbaths and on fast days.

b That y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Gilbody did goe to an horse race.

c That y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Gilbody did sitt trifleing in y^e^ ale house amonge y^e^ crowde att Rushbeare, and that in a place or roome where was fidleing or the like vanity.

d That y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Gilbody hath made divers marrages (contrary to y^e^ Directory and Ordinance of parliament thereupon) as well of ꝑsons within his owne charge as also in other places, without once publishing there banes, and some in y^e^ night in privat houses, nay, in y^e^ ale house.

e That y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Gilbody hath admitted divers ꝑsons to y^e^ Sacram^t^ of y^e^ Lord's Supper without y^e^ consent of his eldershipp.

f That the s^d^ Mr. Gilbody was present att a bowleing on a comon ale house bowling greene.

g That y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Gilbody did labour to obstruct and hinder y^e^ execution of y^e^ Justices warrant for reforming abuses in ale houses.

h Though we have in an humble and christianlike manner spoken againe and againe unto him, telling him what an offence was heareby given to such as feare God, and encouragement to y^e^ wicked, yett we have hitherto in vaine longe waited for reformation, for he still justifyeth his practices to be warrantable.

ZACHARY BRIDGE.

11.—Ordered that there shall be a hearing of this difference att y^e^ next meeting, and that y^e^ elders have sum̄ons from y^e^ moderator to bring in there witnesses.

12.—Sum̄ons for Ellis Bradshaw, eld^r^:

That Ellis Bradshaw be sum̄oned to appeare before y^e^ classis att the next meeting, and that then his busines be heard and further considered of.

13.—The next meeting to be Octob. y^e^ 12^th^, 1648. Mr. Picke be then moderator.

Richard Goodwin, moderator p̄ tempore.

THE 22^nd^ MEETING, Octo. y^e^ 12^th^ day, 1648.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Picke, minist^r^ of Radcliffe, w^th^ Robt. ffogg and Richard Hardman, eld^rs^.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, w^th^ Peter Holte, Esq., James Leech, Tho. Hamond, and John Kaye, eld^rs^.

Mr. Hearper, minist^r^ of Boulton, w^th^ Rich^rd^ Bradshaw, John Yates, and Adam fearnside, eld^rs^.

Mr. Bath, minister of Roachdale, w^th^ Edward Butterworth, Esq., Mr. John Wickins, eld^rs^.

Mr. Gilbody, minister of Holcome, w^th^ Zachary Bridge and Wm. Holt, eld^rs^.

Mr. Schofield, minister of Heywood, w^th^ James Hardman, eld^r^.

Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Cockey, w^th^ Richard Dickenson and Peter Winstanley [elders].

Delegated and sent from y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps of this classis.

1.—Mr. Picke, moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Mr. Allin inhibited:

Ordered. Mr. Allin this day appeareing made a finall answer that he would not stay at Litlebrough nor take them for his people, yet purposed not to leave them untill May day; whereupon he is inhibited from preaching there, or exercising any ministeriall act there.

3.—Mr. Langley's appearance:

Mr. Langley by a warrant from the Justice of Peace was brought before y^e^ classis. Being demanded a reason for his ꝑceedings answered he was a minister to y^e^ Church of England, and might preach (upon desire) in any place. Upon further debate and contestation with him itt was ordered that he should be againe inhibited and the busines referred to y^e^ Provinciall Assembly.

4.—Orders for Mr. Pollitt to answer his charge:

Mr. Pollitt comming for a copy of his charge had itt delivered and enjoyned to bring in an answer att y^e^ next meeting or next but one, and that he have sumons to bring witnesses on his owne behalfe.

5.—Mr. Hill of Todmorden tendred his desires for a dismission from Todmorden because of y^e^ uncertainty and incompetency of mainetaynence, the people [ordered to] be sent to and certified that if they will not take care for his maintainence he shall have a dismission att y^e^ next meeting.

6.—Mr. Stevenson approbation :

That Mr. Stevenson have y^e^ approbation of this classis to be minister at Whitworth chappell.

7.—Order for Mr. Shadwick of Roachdale :

Being appointed this day to give a finall answer, excused his failing to appeare as by necessity of important busines, and craved a further time. Ordered that he doe immediately testifie to Mr. Bath and y^e^ eldershippe of Roachdale whether he will close with them and y^e^ people as an assistant or disavowe y^e^ place.

8.—Mr. ffellgate this day preached upon y^e^ text assigned him w^th^ very good approbation of all. That was signified to him by y^e^ moderator, and much encouragement given him with allowance to preach att Midleton till y^e^ next meeting. Noe ꝑceedinge was made to examination, etc., because the people put in a petition concerning Mr. ffellgate as followeth :

MIDLETON 2^d^ PETITION.

To y^e^ Reverend, etc., the humble petition of the parishioners and congregation of Midleton humbly sheweth :

That whereas Mr. Symonds our late minister is by your order inhibited y^e^ exercise of his ministry amonge us, and that you in yo^r^ answer to our second peticon exhibited to your classis on his and our behalfe have declared that you sadly resent the defect of provision of y^e^ meanes of grace in our congregation, and also that you would doe your utmost endeavour to further us in all lawfull ways for our supply therein. These are therefore in all humility earnestly to implore you to take into yo^r^ serious considerations our distressed condition, and not to comply with their inhibitions who seeke to obtrude such a minister upon us as wee conceive hath no lawfull call unto us, nor sufficient to discharge so weighty a function, and unto whom wee neither have nor can give any assent as we have already declared to our parson

Mr. Wm. Ashton, who notwithstanding, still (as far as we can conceive) endeavoureth by all means to place him over us if yo^r^ wisdomes in tender commiseration to our pplexed souls prevent not. Wee have laboured by all means to know the man's name, education, and callinge to y^e^ ministry, that we might be the better inabled to satisfy ourselves of his sufficiency and conversation by diligent enquiry after y^e^ same, but these things are w^th^ great secrecy concealed from us both by our parson and him, so as they have refused to manifest y^e^ same unto us as impertinent for us to know, aledging that his brother was satisfied for y^e^ orders of y^e^ ministry, who was patron of y^e^ church, and further if James Taylor would come to him he would satisfie him, but he would not satisfie every private man; and yett presumes he may w^th^ authority establish him minister over us: only we have some report that he is an Irishman, and some say a cavalier, but of these things wee are uncertain. Wherefore our confidence is that your wisdomes will be truely satisfied herein before any further pceedings in his behalfe, and that you will be pleased to suspend your approbation of y^e^ man in y^e^ meane time: and also we humbly entreate you will be pleased dureinge the said time to inhibit him y^e^ exercise of preaching or any other ministeriall office in our congregation, and that you will not by your authority to qualifie our man obtrude him upon y^e^ whole congregation contrary to y^e^ law of God and practice of the best reformed churches.

Rich. Radcliffe.	Hen. Kershaw.	John Lancashire.
John Taylor.	Sam. Hilton.	John Jones.
Edm̄d Taylor.	John Stocke.	John Stocke.
Hugh Stocke.	Geo. Cowper.	John Passmond.
Rich. Tonge.	John Lees.	John Ashton.
Jam. Wild.	John Butterworth.	John Hilton.
Tho. Blomeley.	Jam. Taylor.	Rich. Entwistle.
Tho. Cheetham.	John Wrigley.	John Kay.
John Leigh.	Tho. Wardle.	Abel Entwistle.

John Whittaker.	Nath. Leigh.	Robt. Livesey.
Jam. Stock.	Rich. Lomax.	Edm^{d} Chaderton.
Sam. Kershaw.	Geo. Scholes.	Rich. Taylor.
Jam. Taylor.	Rob. Boardman.	Ja. Wolstenholme.
Henry Wild.	John Taylor.	Robt. Saxon.
Jam. Lord.	Edmund Blomeley.	James Millnes.
Tho. Lees.	Wm. Lees.	Rich. Reiyon.
Rich. Hilton.	Rich. ffitton.	Robt. Hilton.
Joseph Wild.	John Blomeley.	Roger Lomax.
Hen. Mercer.	John Andrew.	Hugh Wrigley.
Tho. Cheetham.	John Ogden.	Rich^{d} ffitton.
Edm^{d} Taylor.	Hen. Wrigley.	John Jones.
Tho. Wild.	Sam. Booth.	Joseph Marcroft.
Rich. Berry.	Edw. Jones.	
	George Booth.	Abr. Wild.
	Robt. Hilton.	Rich. Birch,
		Guardians.

9.—Ordered that y^{e} people of Midleton be required to make good there charge in y^{e} petition or anything else they have to object against Mr. ffelgate at y^{e} next meeting. Hereof publicke notice is to be given them, otherwise y^{e} classis will ꝓceed wth Mr. ffelgate to examination, &c.

10.—Depositions and examinations of witnesses upon y^{e} articles informed ag^{t} Mr. Gilbody:

The second, fourth, and fifth, and sixth confessed by Mr. Gilbody. To y^{e} first article were witnesses Thomas Browne, Zachary Bridge, William Hoult, John Warburton, John Holte[1]; to y^{e} third, Wm. Lowe, junior, Richard Lowe;

[1] Hoult, John. Will Somerset House (Ruthen, 539). John Holt of Balderstone, parish of Rochdale, gentleman. "My 2 younger children Samuel and Mary: conveyance to my brother-in-law, John Allin of Bury, of all my messuage, lands, tenements, &c., in Balderstone, Walsden, Castleton, and Thunderfield, in trust for 41 years for my 2 younger children, and to pay off the mortgages; my eldest son Richard to have my copyhold or customary lands and reversionary interest in the trust." Dated 21 Feb., 1648; proved 15 Dec., 1657.

to y^e^ seaventh and last, Zachary Bridge, Wm. Holte, Tho. Browne.

Thomas Browne of Holcome, gent., sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ first article, that Mr. Gilbody hath often gone to y^e^ ale house on Sabbaths and on fast days in y^e^ afternoone, and hath some tyme continued there an hour together or very neere, and likeways y^t^ he hath often frequented y^e^ ale house on weeke days. Also as to y^e^ fifth article this deponent saith that Mr. Gilbody hath admitted divers persons to y^e^ Sacram^t^ of y^e^ Lord's Supper without consent of his eldership, viz., Mr. Thomas Nuttall of Tottington and Mrs. Rawstorne of Nuttall. Also as to y^e^ seventh, this deponent saith that Mr. Gilbody did labour to obstruct y^e^ execution of y^e^ Justices warrant by saying we who were authorized of y^e^ saide warrant had nothing to doe in the execution thereof, nor the Justice of Peace in sending forth or making such a warrant. Item this deponent saith as to y^e^ last article that he was present or did joine in admonishing Mr. Gilbody of some miscarriage at sev^r^all tymes, whereof y^e^ first time was about Decemb^r^, 1646, upon the occasion when this deponent w^th^ others found Mr. Gilbody in y^e^ alehouse on y^e^ Sabbath daye. THO. BROWNE.

Zachary Bridge of Holcome, eld^r^, sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ first article that Mr. Gilbody frequenteth y^e^ alehouse in Holcome not only on weeke days, but on Sabbath and fast days also. Item to y^e^ first article this deponent saith that Mr. Gilbody hath admitted divers persons to y^e^ Sacrament of y^e^ Lord's Supper without y^e^ consent of his elderships, vizt., Tho. Nuttall of Tottington, gent.; Mrs. Rawstorne of Nuttall, and y^e^ wife of Wm. Lowe. Item to the seventh article this deponent saith that about December, 1646, upon y^e^ Sabbath daye, goeinge with others to Charles Nuttall's, ale house keeper, to take notice who were drinking there, amongst others they found Mr. Gilbody drinking

there, the said Mr. Gilbody breaking into a passion said y^e^ Justice of Peace had no authority to imploy them about that business, he knew the law as well as they. To the last article he saith that three sev^r^all tymes either himselfe did admonish or was present when y^e^ said Mr. Gilbody was admonished concerning the foresaide miscarriages, who upon every admonition breake forth into much rage and unseemly expressions. ZACH. BRIDGE.

John Warburton of Stubins, gent., sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ first article that about Christ-tyde last Mr. Gilbody was with him, the deponent, in Charles Nuttall's of Holcome, innkeeper, in y^s^ night.

JOHN WARBURTON.

Richard Lowe of Holcome, yeoman, sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ third article that about August, 1647, upon a rush-bearing day att Holcome, after y^e^ rushes were borne, att y^e^ request of this deponent Mr. Gilbody went with him and divers others into Widow Kaye's, alehouse keeper, in Holcome, where they stayed aboute an hour, and drunke a shott. In w^ch^ space a man comming in with taber and whistle, att y^e^ request of this deponent Mr. Gilbody gave way to play a tune in there company.

RICH. LOWE.

William Holt of Holcome, eld^r^, sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ first article that Mr. Gilbody did sitt and drinke in an ale house fouer days one after another four or five hours sometimes in a day, and that he did goe to y^e^ ale house foure Sabbath days together and one fast day, and that he doth so ordinarily frequent y^e^ ale house. Item to y^e^ 5^th^ article this deponent saith that he y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Gilbody hath admitted divers persons to y^e^ Sacrament of y^e^ Lord's Supper without y^e^ consent of his elderships, vizt., Tho. Nuttall of Tottington and Mr. Rawstorne of Nuttall,

and when y^e^ eld^rs^ shewed to him there dislike of his admitting a certaine person to y^e^ Supper without theire knowledge and approbation, Mr. Gilbody saide that if all in y^e^ chappell would come and give him as good satisfaction as that man did, he would admitt them without theire consent. Item, this deponent saith as to y^e^ 7^th^ article that he y^e^ saide deponent, with and in company of Tho. Browne and Zachary Bridge, eld^rs^, went one Sabbath day att evening into an alehouse to execute y^e^ Justice of Peace warrant for reforming of abuses in alehouses, and there found Mr. Gilbody, and telling him that wee ware about to take notice of and present all such persons as we found tippling in y^e^ alehouse, y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Gilbody fell into a passion, and said we had nothing to do to present men for sitting in y^e^ ale house, nor the Justice of Peace had any power to make such a warrant.

Item, the deponent further saith as to ye last article that he himselfe hath three sev^r^all times spoken to y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Gilbody about his miscarriages, or else hath been present when another of the elders hath admonished him.

By me, WM. HOLTE.

11.—That ye next meeting be upon y^e^ 9^th^ day of November next.

Mr. Picke, y^e^ moderator, endeth with prayer.

THE 23^rd^ MEETING, November y^e^ 9^th^, 1648.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, with Arth. Smithurst and John Keye, elders.

Mr. Goodwin, minist^r^ of Boulton, w^th^ Alexand^r^ Norris and John Andrews, elders.

Mr. Bath, minist^r^ of Roachdale, with James Scott, eld^r^.

Mr. Picke, minist^r^ of Radcliffe, w^th^ Rich. Walker and Robert ffogg, eld^rs^.

Mr. Scofield, minist^r^ of Heywood, w^th^ James Hardman, eld^r^.

Mr. Bradshaw, minist^r^, of Cockey, w^th^ Rich. Dickonson and Peter Winstanley, eld^rs^.

Mr. Tilsley not appeareinge itt was answered that he desired to be excused for his absence upon speciall occasion. There appeared Richard Mather and John Munks of Deane, eld^rs^.

1.—Mr. Alte, chosen moderator, begun w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ordered that Mr. Harp, Mr. Alte, Mr. Bath, minist^rs^, w^th^ Peter Holte, Esq., Richard Medowcroft, gent., Hen. Mollinax, gent., Rich. Dickanson, John Scofield, Richard Walker, ruleinge eld^rs^, shall be deligated and sent from this classis to y^e^ Provinciall Meeting to be houlden at Preston November y^e^ 14^th^ next.

3.—Ordered that the questions and determinations of this classe of Feb. 24^th^ and March y^e^ 23^rd^, 1647, as also y^e^ questions of August y^e^ 3^rd^, 1648, as they are explained in a paper, be presented by y^e^ delegates of this classe unto y^e^ Assembly att Preston Novemb^r^ y^e^ 19^th^, for theire advice and resolution.

4.—Littleborough petition. Y^e^ inhabitants of Littleborough in y^e^ parish of Roachdale, presented a peticon for y^e^ recalling of Mr. Allin's inhibition, and giveing y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Allen a temporary approbation for att least 6 months to come. Ordered that y^e^ s^d^ inhibic̃on issued out Octob^r^ 12^th^ shall stand good except or untill Mr. Allin shall acknowledge before this classis himselfe to be minist^r^ of that people, which if he doe then this classe shall take y^e^ matter into further consideration.

5.—Mr. Chadwicke's resolution:

> Y^e^ answer and resolution of Mr. Chadwicke unto y^e^ presbytery of Roachdale was read before y^e^ classe, and because itt seemed doubtfull w^t^ he ment and uncertaine w^t^ he would doe, ordered that he be sum̃oned to appeare before y^e^ classe at y^e^ next meeting, then and there to ꝓceed in reference to approbation and admission to y^e^ place by way of an assistant in that charge of Roachdale.

6.—ffurther depositions and examinations of witnesses upon articles against Mr. Gilbody formerly put in.

William Lowe of Holcome, yong^r^, sworne and examined, doth depose and saye as to y^e^ third article that Mr. Gilbody upon a rush-bearing day at Holcome chappell after y^e^ rushes were borne, did sit in an ale house in y^e^ crowd in a roome or place where a man with taber and whistle did play. WILLIAM LOWE.

7.—New articles ag^t^ Mr. Gilbody.

New informations of Mr. Gilbody's carrage since y^e^ last meeting:

a That y^e^ said Mr. Gilbody [performed] a marrage between Tho. Haslome and Ann Yate on y^e^ third day of October last, without any orderley ꝑceedings according to y^e^ Directory, and another on y^e^ 3^rd^ of November between James Knowles and y^e^ daughter of Ralfe Smith, without consent of parents.

b That y^e^ said Mr. Gilbody was att a bowling att Holcome on the twentieth of October last.

c That y^e^ said Mr. Gilbody his servants did carry loads to y^e^ milne on horse back on y^e^ 25^th^ of October last, being y^e^ monthly fast day.

Depositions of witnesses upon these last articles:

Zachary Bridge of Holcome, elder, sworne and examined doth say as to y^e^ second article that Mr. Gilbody was att a bowling att Holcome upon y^e^ twentieth of October last.

ZACHARY BRIDGE.

William Holte of Holcome, elder, sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ second article that Mr. Gilbody was att a bowling at Holcome on y^e^ twentieth of October last.

WM. HOLTE.

Tho. Kay of Sheeply in Shuttleworth, sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ 3^rd^ article that he, this deponent, mett

two sons of Mr. Gilbody w^th^ one William Smith with loads of corne on horses on y^e^ way to y^e^ milne upon y^e^ 25^th^ of October last, being y^e^ fast day. THO. KAY.

Tho. Haslome of Tottington, sworne and examined saith as to y^e^ 1^st^ article that Mr. Gilbody did marry him and his wife att Holcome chapple on y^e^ third of October last, w^th^out banes publishing. THO. HASLOME.

8.—Midleton, y^e^ third petition.

Y^e^ inhabitants of Midleton, by theire deputies James Stocke and Robert Lancashire, tendered a peticon further shewing theire refusall of Mr. ffelgate to be there minister, and theire unwillingness that any ꝑceedings should be made towards his ordination with reference to them, &c.; herewith was tendred y^e^ reasons of theire refusall in another paper not signed. A request also was tendred from y^e^ wor^ll^ Mr. Ralph Ashton and y^e^ parson Mr. William Ashton, that Mr. ffelgate might be allowed to preach at Midleton two months longer, etc.

Ordered that Mr. ffelgate be suffered to preach att Middleton till y^e^ meeting of this classis in June next, and that then or before y^e^ people of Midleton bringe in theire charge ag^t^ him if they have any.

9.—An appeale of Richard Heywood of Litle Leaver, in y^e^ ꝑish of Boulton, was tendered unto y^e^ classe in two papers, the one being an explanation of the other. Ordered that y^e^ s^d^ appeale be received, and that y^e^ said Richard doe attend this classe att theire next meeting, and that the eldershippe of Boulton be required to make good there censure of suspension executed on y^e^ s^d^ Richard.

10.—That some Justice of Peace be informed by letter of Mr. Briscowe of Walmesley his preaching without ordination, and his refusing to appeare before this classe, being lawfully sum̃oned by warrant according to ordinance of parlament.

11.—That ye next meeting of this classis shall be upon Thursday, being ye 14th day of December, and Mr. Schofield of Heywood to preach.

The moderator ended wth prayer.

William Alte, moderator p tempore.

THE 24th MEETING, December ye 14th day, 1648.

Apud Bury.

There appeared Mr. Tilsley, minist^{r} of Deane, wth Roger Walmsley and Giles Edge, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Alte, minister of Bury, with Arth. Smithurst, Tho. Hamond, and John Kay, elders.

Mr. Harper, minist^{r} of Boulton, wth John Oakey, Rich. Medowcroft, and Richard Bradshaw, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Bath, minist^{r} of Roachdale, wth Jon. Schofield and Edm̄d Ogden, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Picke, minist^{r} of Radcliffe, wth Rich. Hardman and Robt. ffogg, eld^{rs}.

Mr. Bradshaw, minist^{r} of Cockey, wth Rich. Dickonson and Peter Winstanley, eld^{rs}.

Delegated and sent from ye sev^{r}all Presbyteryes in this classe.

1.—Mr. Tilsley, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Admonition for neglect:

Ordered that ye ruling elders who ware absent from ye Provinciall Assembly, vizt., Mr. Medowcroft and Mr. Hen. Mollinex, be admonished for theire neglect, and exhorted to attend ye next session, wch will be the first Tusday in febry next.

3.—Publick charges, how defrayed:

That betwixt ye tyme yt ye Provinciall Meeting now in being shall end, and the begininge of anoth^{r} meeting thereof,

there be course taken by y^e^ classe for y^e^ defraying y^e^ publicke charges that belong to y^e^ service.

4.—Mr. Chadwicke's request:

Mr. Chadwicke of Roachdale, appointed to give in his answer this day, made his excuse, with a desire to be borne w^th^ another month. His desire graunted.

5.—Mr. ffornice approbation:

Mr. John [*sic*, for Tobye] ffornice, chosen minister of Bury, desired approbation thereunto: psented his letters of dismission from y^e^ first classe: the delegates also of y^e^ presbytery att Bury certified his free and cleare call unto Bury: he received approbation.

6.—Order for a meeting att Boulton:

The business of Rich. Heywood's appeale being taken into consideration, the s^d^ Rich. tendered a writing for y^e^ further clearing up of matters; also y^e^ presbytery of Boulton put in an answer to his appeale, and two papers answerable to y^e^ appeale, the one paper dated Sept^r^ y^e^ 29^th^, the other December y^e^ 8^th^, 1648. In this latter they rep^r^sented theire judgm^t^ that y^e^ s^d^ appeale ought not to have been received, because therein is alledged that y^e^ major part of y^e^ eldershipp did not joyne in y^e^ voate or censure. Itt was by y^e^ classe voated that notwithstanding that allegation, y^e^ appeale ought to have been received, and also still retained; and itt is further ordered that ffriday next, being y^e^ 22 of this instant Decemb^r^, be appointed for a meeting of y^e^ classe att Boulton for y^e^ full triall of this business.

7.—Order for Mr. Briscow:

That Justice Bradshaw be desired to issue out a warrant for bringing in Mr. Briscow, who refuseth to appeare upon sev^r^all sumons of y^e^ classe.

8.—A question:

Ordered that this question be referred to y^e^ Provinciall Meeting: What course shall be taken w^th^ minist^rs^ who marry partyes contrary to y^e^ rules in y^e^ directory?

9.—Order for Mr. Gilbody :

That Mr. Gilbody be required to carry on y^e^ gov^r^ment in his presbytery whilst his busines remaines undetermined in y^e^ classe.

10.—Order for Ashworth chappell :

A controv^r^sie being in y^e^ congregation of Ashworth chapple about a minist^r^, Mr. Ramsbotham there ꝑsent minist^r^, w^th^ y^e^ major ꝑt of y^e^ well-affected in y^e^ congregation, desiring one Mr. Pendlebury, [ordered that Mr. Pendlebury] doe continue to preach att y^e^ s^d^ chappell, and that he preach before y^e^ classe att y^e^ next meeting att Bury, in reference to his approbation and ordination to y^e^ ministry, upon y^e^ text I. Tim., i. 15.

11.—Midleton declaration :

Certaine of y^e^ people of Midleton this day put in a declaration for y^e^ clearing of themselves and theire ꝓceedings, it is ordered that theire business be handled att ye next meetinge in January.

The moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

John Tilsley, moderator ꝑ tempore.

25^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ 2^nd^ Classe, December y^e^ 22^nd^, 1648.

Deligates :

Boulton : Mr. Tilsley, minist^r^, Rog^r^ Walmsley, Tho. Leigh, Henry Seddon, John Ashley, eld^r^ of Deane.

Mr. Alte, minister, Peter Holt, Esq., James Leech, Arth. Smethurst, of Bury.

Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Bradshaw, minist^rs^, Rich. Dickonson, John Crompton, Roger Roscow, eld^rs^.

1.—Upon a debate whethr the deligates of Boulton should this day act in ye classe as members thereof, it was resolved that they ought; only when ye busines concerning ye elders of Boulton should come in agitation theire deligates then should forbare to act.

2.—Resolved that in elderships wherein there is but one ministr and two eldrs, or so few that they cannot make a formall deligation, that then an agreement betwixt ye ministers and eldrs shall sufficiently enable and authorize them to sitt and act in yt classe.

3.—Upon debate concerning ye method of ꝑceeding in Rich. Haywood's appeale itt is ordered that a begining be made wth ye proofe of things aledged by the said Richard Haywood in his appeale, and then what can be aledged on ye part of Boulton eldrs.

4.—Ordered that Mr. Tilsley and Mr. Bradshaw, Peter Holte and Richard Dickonson, be deputed and sent to ye first classe to repsent unto them the busines of ye censure agt Rich. Haywood, and to desire there judgmt and advice thereon, and thereof to certifie ye class at theire next meeting.

5.—Ordered that Mr. Gilbody, ministr of Holcome, be sent for to appeare att Bury att ye next meeting, January ye 18th, to answer to ye charge laid in agt him by his eldrs, and that ꝑceeding be made therein as cause requires.

6.—Next meeting att Bury on Thursday, ye 18th day of January.

Subscribed by appointment of ye classe by

Petter Bradshaw.

26th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye 2nd Classe, Jan. ye 18, 164$\frac{8}{9}$.

Bury.

There appeared Mr. Alte, Robt. Bath, John Tilsley, Tho. Picke, Jonath. Scholefield, Peter Bradshaw, ministers, with ye assistance of Peter Holte, James Leech, Arth. Smithurst, Peter Rylands, Charles Leigh, Rich. Hardman, Robt. ffogg, James Hardman, Rich. Dickenson, Rich. Bradshaw, Peter Winstanley, eldrs.

1.—Mr. Alte, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Mr. Chadwicke of Roachdale, ministr, this day appeared to give a finall answer according to ye ordr formerly issued out, but made further and insufficient excuse. Ordered, therefore, that he be inhibited preaching att Roachdale untill he appeare before ye classe to give satisfaction concerning his closeing with or refusall of that people.

3.—Ordered that each minister of this classe who officiates at a church shall give 2s, and each minister of a chapple 1s, and each ruling eldr in ye classe 6d, to be brought in by each minister att ye next meeting, and given to ye Register, Mr. Bradshaw, for some satisfaction of his paines and care in that worke.

4.—Upon a question ꝑpounded to ye classe for resolucõn as of a case of conscience, *i.e.*, what course a partie should take in disposeing him or her selfe in marriage when parants will not give consent, yet shew noe sufficient cause of refusall. Ordered, that seeing it is a case of partyes in Rochdale parsh, that ye eldershipp of Rochdale shall send for the father of ye woman who hath forbidden or caused the publication of the purpose of marriage to be stopped, to give in his reason of refusall, and yt eldershipp to certifie ye classe att the next meeting of ꝑceedings herein.

5.—Mr. Jackson, a yonge man, ꝑsented himselfe, signifieing his willingnes to be minister att Horridge chappell. Ordered

that he preach before y^e^ classe at theire next meeting upon that text 2^nd^ Corin., 13^th^ 5^th^, and ꝑceeding then [to be] made as cause shall require.

6.—Mr. Pendlebury this day preached upon y^e^ text assigned, and hath encouragm^t^ to proceed, and being demanded whether he purposed to go on to ordination, he answered that he desired to have his call to Ashworth chappell more cleare for his owne satisfaction. Ordered that Mr. Smithurst, who officiates there without a sufficient call, be admonished to desist, and he being ꝑsent promised so to doe.

7.—Y^e^ question of the power to choose a minister where there is a person in place being not resolved by y^e^ Provinciall [Assembly], as also there being some meanes on foote to heale y^e^ breach in Midleton parish about Mr. ffelgate, and some motions made that Mr. ffelgate may preach there till the next meeting, ordered that he shall and may soe doe.

8.—A meeting to be att Bury on Thursday, Feb. y^e^ 1^st^ next, for y^e^ determination of y^e^ busines about Mr. Haywood suspension and appeale, and that each elderpp send if possible y^e^ same deligates who were last att Boulton, or some in theire stead, and to beginn att 11 of y^e^ clock.

9.—Mr. Gilbody and Mr. Pollitt to be sent for to appeare att y^e^ s^d^ meeting.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

William Alte, moderator ꝑ tempore.

Att a MEETING of y^e^ Second Classe att Bury, feb. 1^st^, $164\frac{8}{9}$.

There appeared Mr. Alte, Rob. Bath, Tho. Picke, Jonathan Schofield, Peter Bradshaw, ministers, w^th^ y^e^ assistance of Peter Holte, James Leech, Arth. Smithurst, Rob. Pares, Rich. Walker, Robt. Fogg, Rich. Hardman, Rich. Dickonson, Roj. Roscow, Hugh Parr, John Roscow, eld^rs^.

Mr. Tilsley sent his excuse, w^ch^ was received.

Mr. Goodwin absent, w^th^ John [*sic*] Roscow and John Crompton, eld^rs^, yet sent noe excuse.

1.—Mr. Alte, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Mr. Chadwicke of Roachdale being inhibited, had a coppie of the inhibition sent him, w^ch^ miscaryed and came not to his hands, he this day appeared and shewed a willingness to give satisfaction.

Ordered that the inhibition shall be withdrawne, and that particulars wherein satisfaction must be given be drawne up according to ordinance of parlem^t^ and sent to him, and that herein he give satisfaction at y^e^ next meeting.

3.—That Mr. Pollitt of Millrowe be sumoned to appeare att the next meeting.

4.—The business of Rich. Haywood comeing into debate, the deligates of this classe (sent to y^e^ first classe for theire advice therein) ware desired to make relation of such representation of the busines as they made to that classe. Mr. Bradshaw, one of the delegates, in y^e^ name of the rest declared there ꝑceedings therein, w^ch^ ware judged to be faire and impartiall. Afterwards y^e^ whole business was revived, and y^e^ ꝑceedings att Boulton, December 22^nd^, were related, and upon serious consideration of and debate upon y^e^ whole busines, itt is voted y^t^ there doth not appeare sufficient ground on behalfe of the s^d^ Rich. Haywood for such a censure and so published. Also voated that it doth not appeare that y^e^ carriage of Rich. Haywood before y^e^ eld^r^pp of Bolton was seemly or fitting.

5.—Ordered that y^e^ sentence of suspension executed by y^e^ presbytery of Boulton ag^t^ Rich. Haywood ought to be revoaked, and hereby y^e^ s^d^ sentence is reversed and taken off.

6.—That Richard Haywood shall in convenient tyme make acknowledgm^t^ before y^e^ classe of his unfitt carriage before y^e^ elderpp of Boulton, and that he be admonished thereof by y^e^ classe ; also y^e^ presbytery of Boulton to be admonished for theire miscarriage.

7.—That y^e^ revocation of y^e^ sentance be published in Boulton congregation.

8.—That y^e^ eld^rs^ of Holecome and Mr. Gilbody, minist^r^, be sum̄oned to appeare next meeting for y^e^ p̱fecting of y^e^ depositions to y^e^ charge ag^t^ Mr. Gilbody.

9.—The next meeting to be on Thursday, y^e^ 15^th^ day of this instant february.

Ended with prayer.

Mr. Alte, moderator p̱ tempore.

28^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, feb. 15^th^, 164$\frac{8}{9}$.

Bury.

There appeared Wm. Alte, Rob. Bath, John Harp̱, Jonathan Scofield, Peter Bradshaw, ministers, w^th^ Peter Holte, James Leech, Arth. Smithurst, Samuell Wilde, John Scolefielde, Adam ffernside, John Yate, James Hardman, Rich. Dickonson, Rob. ffogg, Rob. Hunte, John Munkes.

Mr. Horrockes, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Picke, sent there excuse.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Mr. Harper related from y^e^ Provinciall Meeting two things: first that there was a meeting appoynted att Preston upon Tusday, ffeb. 20^th^, and y^t^ one [minister] and one eld^r^ are to be sent from each classis. (2) That y^e^ second classe must p̱vide a minister to preach att y^e^ next Provinciall Meeting in May.

Ordered that Mr. Tilsley, minister, and Mr. Walmesley, eld^r^, be deligated for Preston, and that Mr. Tilsley preach att y^e^ Provinciall, etc.

3.—The busines of Midleton comeing into debate, there was p̱sented a letter from Collonall Ashton containing a motion that

some minister might come to Midleton to preach; also therewith was tendred a petition of certaine of y^e^ inhabitants of Midleton desireing Mr. ffelgate to be continued minist^r^ there. Ordered that Mr. Angier and Mr. Harrison be desired by y^e^ moderator to preach on a day of humiliation att Midleton, either in y^e^ first or second weeke of March next, about y^e^ choyce of a minister, and that Mr. Alte and Mr. Scolefield, minist^rs^, with Mr. Holt and Rich. Dickonson, eld^rs^, attend att Midleton on that day to certifie to y^e^ classe how the election of a minister to that congregation is carried, whether for Mr. ffelgate or ag^t^ him.

4.—Mr. Jackson, who preached this day [having given satisfaction], and signifieing his desire to be ordained, is appointed to provide his certificate and to prepare for examination att y^e^ next meeting.

5.—One Mr. Holte this day signified his desire to be minister att Bradshaw chappell, and brought sev^r^all certificates; itt is ordered that he preach at y^e^ next meeting upon Galat. 2, 20, and y^e^ people to be sent unto to bring in there exceptions if they have any ag^t^ him att that tyme, otherwise ꝓceeding to be made in order to his approbation.

6.—That Mr. Pollitt of Millrow be sum̃oned to appeare att y^e^ next meeting to cleare himselfe, otherwise ꝓceedings made ag^t^ him.

7.—Rich. Haywood being called on his failings and miscarriages ware in particular laid before him. Upon admonition he declared not any sence of his faileings, therefore he was desired to lay y^e^ thing to heart and seeke to God for discov^r^y of his failings unto him, and to appeare att y^e^ next meeting.

8.—The eld^rs^ of Holcome were further examined upon y^e^ articles exhibited ag^t^ Mr. Gilbody, and cleared theire former deposic̃ons.

Ordered that Mr. Gilbody require of y^e^ Register a coppie of these last depositions, and returne an answer to y^e^ whole charge att y^e^ next meeting, att w^ch^ tyme this busines is to be ended.

9.—The next meeting to be at Bury upon Thursday, y^e^ 15^th^ day of March next.

Ended with prayer.

Rob. Bath, moderator p̱ tempore.

29^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, March y^e^ 15^th^, 164$\frac{8}{9}$.

Bury.

There appeared Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Alte, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Picke, Mr. Bradshaw, minist^rs^, with Henery Hindley, Wm. Tonge, Tho. Hammond, Arth. Smithurst, John Scofield, John Andrews, Rich. Medowcroft, Rich. Hardman, Rich. Dickonson, ruleing eld^rs^.

Mr. Scofield, minist^r^ of Haywood, desired excuse for absence.

1.—Mr. Tilsley, chosen moderator, begun w^th^ prayer.

2.—Mr. Rich. Holte this day preached, and after appeared before the class, and not giving full satisfaction, ordered that he preach againe before y^e^ classe att there next meeting upon y^e^ same text begun.

3.—Mr. Jackson of Horridge brought in his certificate, but y^e^ classe not being fully satisfied about sev^r^all things he was appointed to preach att Boulton upon Monday, y^e^ second day of Aprill next, for furth^r^ satisfaction, and also to p̱vide, if he can, such other certificates as are required ag^t^ y^e^ next meeting or next but one.

4.—A letter read being sent from Boulton eldership contayneing a complaint about sum̄ons issued out ag^t^ some of theire elderpp who were agents in Rich. Haywood's suspention: whereupon some questions were propounded and voted:

(1) That y^e^ classe hath power to sum̄ons two ministers and five elders of any eldershipp w^ch^ is subordinate to y^e^ classe; (2) that y^e^ sum̄ons of such as are faulty doth not destroy nor overthrow y^e^ power of such elderpp.

5.—Mr. Chadwick this day appeared and proposed his intent and purpose att his returne from y^e^ South to joyn and close w^th^ the congregation att Roachdale, and also w^th^ y^e^ eld^r^pp there and y^e^ classe.

6.—The next meeting appointed on Wednesday, y^e^ 11^th^ day of Aprill next, to begin att 9 o'clock, etc.

Ended with prayer.

John Tilsley, moderator p̄ tempore.

30^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, Aprill y^e^ 11, 1649.

Bury.

There appeared Mr. Harper of Boulton, Mr. Alte of Bury, Mr. Picke of Radcliff, Mr. Bath of Rochdale, Mr. Bradshaw of Cockey, minist^rs^. Mr. Horrocks of Deane desired excuse for his absence. Also there appeared Alexander Norris, John Oakey, Rich. Walker, Rob. ffogg, Peter Holte, Esq., James Leech, Tho. Hamond, Arth. Smithurst, Rob. Pares, Rich. Dickonson, Tho. Leech, Giles Edge, etc.

1.—Mr. Picke, moderat^r^, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Mr. Holte, minist^r^, this day preached according to order, and not giveing satisfaction is disalowed to exercise preaching or any other ministerial act at Bradshaw chappell, or within the precincts of this classe.

3.—Y^e^ people of Rivington presented a petition desireing that Mr. Nuttall might be theire minister. Ordered that he preach

in order to his approbation for that place before y^e^ classe att their next monthly meeting upon that text, I. Thess., 4, 3.

4.—Mr. Jackson of Horridge being ordered to preach att Boulton in y^e^ heareing of sundry ministers of this classe upon a second tryall, and not giveing due satisfaction upon y^e^ tryall that hath been made of him, the classe cannot give him approbation to ꝑceed to ordination unto y^e^ ministery. Hereof he is to be certified.

5.—Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Ashton, minist^rs^, w^th^ John Okey, John Andrews, Arth. Smithurst, Giles Greene, Peter Rylands, James Stott, eld^rs^, be deputed deligates for y^e^ ꝑvince on May y^e^ 1 next.

6.—Ordered that y^e^ exhortation of y^e^ ꝑvince be read[1] publickly in every congregation of this classis wherein it hath not been read upon y^e^ next Lord's day or next but one.

7.—That there be a meeting of y^e^ classe att Bury upon Thursday y^e^ 26^th^ day of this instant Aprill.

[1] For the resolutions of the Provincial Assembly referred to (February, 164$\frac{8}{9}$) see *Materials for an Account of the Provincial Assembly*, pp. 33, 38, and *Manchester Minutes*, pp. 102, 112. These resolutions concern the putting of the Presbyterian Government into practice, etc., but there seems to have been a good deal more than this underneath the surface, as is evident from a contemporary newspaper (*The Moderate*, No. 37, March 20–27, 164$\frac{8}{9}$, Brit. Mus., Thomasson Tracts, $\frac{4}{2}\frac{1}{0}\frac{4}{6}$ Gold number). "Not long since the ministers of the county of Lancaster had a meeting at Preston, called one of their Provincial Meetings. They had much debate concerning the presenting of a petition to Major General Ashton to desire that he would settle the Presbyterian Government within this county before he disbanded his forces. What they concluded is not certainly known, but here is a report that 20 out of each troop or company are to fetch ammunition, and that they intend to make proposals unto those who shall come to disband them, if granted, then to disband, if not, then to stand upon their guard.

"It is thought that the ministers at this same meeting did agree that one of them should be sent to Scotland to congratulate with the priests there. That which makes this more proveable 2 of them were met the other day further north, and now they are at a generall meeting — it's thought to receive what those 2 hath to impart unto them. It is said the Scots were raising 1,800 horse and foot within every county . . . the Scots had sent commissioners into Ireland, to Preston, and Inchequin." For a later illustration of this see *Manchester Minutes*, p. 168, note.

8.—That Mr. ffellgate is allowed to continue exerciseing att Midleton untill the dissenting parties, vizt. the parson and parishioners, doe joyntly agree and pitch upon a p̄son to be theire minister, and such an one as may be approved by y^e^ classis, the s^d^ Mr. ffelgate promiseing to depart if he be not pitched upon.

9.—Mr. Gilbody sum̄oned to appeare, and to make answer to his charge, &c.

Ended with prayer.

Tho. Picke, moderator p̄ tempore.

31^st^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, May y^e^ 24^th^, 1649.

Bury.

Whereas divers members of y^e^ classe, both minist^rs^ and ruling eld^rs^, failed to be att Bury on Thursday, y^e^ 26^th^ of Aprill last, therefore on this day in a full assembly itt is concluded.

1.—That y^e^ classe shall meete upon each Thursday monthely, and that y^e^ delegates of y^e^ sev^r^all eldershipps shall be att y^e^ place appointed by nine o'clock on y^e^ aforesaid : hereof notice to be given to y^e^ sev^r^all eld^r^pp, and that such as neglect soe to appeare without just cause alledged shall be censured by y^e^ classe.

2.—That y^e^ sermon begin betwixt nine and ten.

3.—That members of y^e^ class neglecting to come to y^e^ sermon shall be censurable as well as they that neglecte appearance in y^e^ classe.

4.—Mr. Nuttall, minist^r^ of y^e^ Gospell, approved of to be minister at Rivington.

5.—Mr. Gilbody againe to be sent unto to answer his charge.

6.—The next meeting to be on Thursday, y^e^ 15^th^ day of June next.

Ended with prayer.

Peter Bradshaw, reg^r^.

32nd MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, June ye 15th, 1649.

Bury.

By Mr. Horrocks, Mr. Alte, Mr. Harper, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scolefield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, with the assistance of Hen. Seddon, Rich. Mather, Peter Holte, Esqr, Tho. Hamond, Arth. Smithurst, John Kay, John Andrews, Rich. Medowcroft, James Stott, John Schofield, Rich. Hardman, Rob. ffogg, James Hardman, Richard Dickonson, Peter Winstanley, ruleing eldrs.

1.—Mr. Horrocks, moderator, &c.

2.—Ordered that Mr. Briscow, who hath taken upon him to officiate att Walmesley chappell without applying himselfe to this classe for approbation, and being sent unto sevrall times by ye classe, and refuseing to appeare upon sumons, yet psisteth still, and also complaint being this day made by divers of the congregation; that therefore ye said Mr. Briscow shall be inhibited to officiate any longer att ye said chapell untill he shall appeare and give satisfaction to ye classe.

3.—That Mr. Pollitt of Millrowe be summoned to appeare att ye next meeting to bring in his answer in writing to ye charge exhibited agt him, and that his busines be first of all handled at ye sd meeting, and also if then he appeare not the ꝓceeding be made agt him as cause shall require.

4.—That Mr. Bath, Mr. Furnesse, Mr. Scholefield, ministers, shall goe together to Mr. Briscow to confer wth him on some such day as themselves shall agree upon before ye next meeting of ye classe.

5.—Mr. Gilbody this day appeareing, and haveing no answer ready in writeing, he was pressed to give in his answer in writeing, and thereupon he promised to bring in such answer att ye next meeting, otherwise the classe to ꝓceed agt him *p' confesso.*

6.—The busines of Rich. Heywood comeing into debate, itt was voted y^t^ the acknowledgm^t^ w^ch^ the s^d^ Rich. hath offred to y^e^ classe in writeing is satisfactory as to y^e^ classe, also that y^e^ sentence of absolution of y^e^ s^d^ Rich. from his suspension shall be published in Boulton congregation, and therewith also the acknowledgment w^ch^ y^e^ s^d^ Rich. hath put into y^e^ classe (if y^e^ elderpp of Boulton thinke fitt) to be published, and that y^e^ one of y^e^ two ministers of Boulton (as themselves shall agree) shall publish y^e^ sentence of absolution in a full congregation upon some Lord's day next before y^e^ Sacram^t^ of y^e^ Lord's Supper to those administered.

7.—That y^e^ next meeting of y^e^ classe be upon Thursday, y^e^ 12^th^ day of July next, and that Mr. ffurnasse be y^e^ preacher.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Alexander Horrocks, moderator p tempore.

33^rd^ MEETING, July y^e^ 12^th^.

Some ministers and eld^rs^ mett at Bury and read a question from y^e^ first classe that some of this classe might meet y^e^ delegates of y^e^ first classe att Ringley,[1] to consulte how some obstructions in y^e^ goverm^t^ there might be removed. Ordered that Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Scholefield, minist^rs^, and Mr. Holte and Mr. Seddon, eld^rs^, doe meete att Ringley on y^e^ first Thursday in August.

[1] See note, *Manchester Minutes*, p. 116. Ringley chapel was built to accommodate the spare population of Outwood, parcel of Prestwich parish, and Kersley, parcel of Deane parish, and Clifton. In addition some of the inhabitants of Little Lever, Bolton parish, repaired thither "ever since it was opened." All this was contrary to the essence of Presbytery, which followed a strictly *local* delimitation of churches, one of the moot points of dispute between the Presbyterian and Congregationalist systems. In this case the question was not merely one of settlement of parish or presbytery bounds (between Ringley and Deane) but also of the classical bounds (between the first and second classis). See first minute of succeeding meeting. Ringley continued throughout in the Manchester Classis.

34th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, Augt ye 9th, 1649.

Bury.

By Mr. Picke, Mr. Harper, Mr. ffurnesse, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bath, ministrs, wth ye assistance of Rich. Walker, Robt. ffogg, Adam ffernesside, Rog. Roscow, Tho. Hamond, Arth. Smithurst, John Kay, Tho. Leigh, Hen. Seddon, Samuell Wild, ruleing eldrs.

1.—Mr. Picke, chosen moderator, begun wth prayer.

2.—Mr. Tilsley certifieth ye result of ye meeting att Ringley chappell, wch was that Mr. Holland, ministr att Ringley should call togeather ye people belonging to Ringley congregation, and that such as out of the parish of Deane desire to joyne att Ringley shall shew their dismission from Deane by ye eldrpp there.

3.—Delegates appointed to attend ye Provinciall Meeting att Preston on ye third Tusday in Sept. next, vizt., Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. ffornisse, ministrs, wth Tho. Hamond, Wm. Tonge, Adam ffearnside, Tho. Browne, Samuell Wild, Rich. Hardman, ruling eldrs. Mr. Tilsley to preach att that meeting.

4.—Mr. Harper, Mr. Alte, Mr. Bradshaw, ministrs, wth Hen. Seddon, John Crompton, James Hardman, being eldrs, are appointed to meet at Boulton on Monday, the third day of Septr next, to consider of and prepare something for ye next Provinciall Synod.

5.—Mr. Gilbody answer to ye severall articles agt him read and taken into consideration, and itt was voted, *nemine contradicente*, that ye sd answer did noe whitt [in]validate ye accusations and depositions agt him. Ordered that Mr. Gilbody, because of these miscarriages, be suspended from ye exercise of his ministry att Holcome chappell, and in all other congregations within this classe, and that ye tithes belonging [to ye] chappellry of Holcome

be sequestered, and that Arth. Crompton be hereby authorized to view[1] ye corne, and to sett and lett and to receive y^e^ monys for y^e^ use of such minister or ministers as by y^e^ consent and approbation of this classe shall serve the cure in y^e^ chappell of Holcome: and in case that Arth. Crompton doe refuse this service, that then Wm. Alte and Mr. ffornesse shall have power to appoint some fit person or persons for y^e^ imployment aforesaid, and that Mr. Alte and Mr. ffornesse doe audit the accounts between Mr. Gilbody and y^e^ chappellry, that itt may appeare whether Mr. Gilbody have anything in arear due unto him, and what.

6.—That Mr. Pollitt's busines be y^e^ first dispatched in y^e^ next meeting of y^e^ classe.

7.—Mr. ffelgate gave in his thesis, and he is to be examined att y^e^ next meeting next after Mr. Pollitt's busines.

8.—That y^e^ minist^rs^ that take upon them to preach att y^e^ sev^r^all chappells of Todmorden, Littlebrough, and Whitworth, in y^e^ parish of Roachdale, be sumoned to appeare att y^e^ next meeting, to give in their reasons why they preach without approbation from y^e^ classe, and Mr. Bath to send there names unto Mr. Bradshaw that he may sumon them accordingly.

9.—Y^e^ next meeting of y^e^ classis to be on Thursday, y^e^ 13^th^ day of December, and Mr. Picke to preach.

Tho. Picke, moderator p̱ tempore.

[1] The classis had not the least power or authority to take such action as above in ordering the sequestration of tithes. That power belonged to the Committee for the County, the Committee for Plundered Ministers, or the Parliament, but not at all to any classis. See introduction to the *Minutes of the Plundered Ministers' Committee* (Record Society), and entry there under date March 5, 165$\frac{9}{4}$.

35th and 36th and 37th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, November ye 15, 1649.

Bury.

Upon Thursday, ye 13th day of Sept., sevrall ministrs and eldrs mett at ye place appointed, but they being not a competent number to act according to order, did adjourne unto Thursday, ye 11th day of Octobr next, att wch time also ye classe falling short of its due number, adjourned theire meeting unto Novembr ye 15th. Then appeared Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bath, Mr. ffournesse, Mr. Harper, Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministrs, wth ye assistance of Giles Greene, Peter Rylands, James Stott, John Schofield, James Leech, Arth. Smithurst, Tho. Hamond, John Andrews, Rich. Medowcroft, James Hardman, Peter Winstanley, ruleing elders.

1.—Mr. Hearper, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Mr. ffelgate proceeded to examination in the tongues, arts, etc., and was approved of as having a competent skill therein, as also in Divinitie, and also gave in ye grounds whereupon he desired ye function of ye ministry; itt is ordred that an Instrumt be drawne up and fixed on ye chappell dore at Bradshaw, and another sent to Medop in Yorkshire on behalfe of Mr. Huxley, and if no exceptions be brought in from either of those places unto ye classe att theire next meeting why they may not proceed to ordination that then ye tyme and place for theire ordination shall be appointed and concluded upon.

3.—That Mr. Core of Todmorden, Mr. Bradshaw of Litlebrough, Mr. Stott of Whitworth, Mr. Bridge of Edenfield, ministers, be sent for to give satisfaction to the classe concerning theire preaching wthout approbation of ye classe.

4.—Ye next meeting to be on Thursday, Decembr ye 13th, 1649.

Ended wth prayer.

John Harper, moderator p tempore.

38th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, December ye 13th, 1649.

Bury.

By Mr. Alte, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scholfield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministrs, haveing ye assistance of Peter Holt, Esq., James Leech, Arth. Smithurst, Alexander Norris, John Okey, Wm. Tonge, John Roscow, John Schofield, Rob. fogg, and Peter Winstanley, ruleing eldrs.

1.—Mr. Alte, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Ordered that ye ordination of Mr. ffelgate and Mr. Huxley be att Bradshaw chappell upon Wednesday next, second day in January; Mr. Alte to preach, excepte he can prevaile wth Mr. ffornese to supply, and all ye ministers of ye classe to be present at ye ordination.

3.—Mr. Bridge appeared and desired he might ꝑceed to ordination att ye first classe where he had begunne. Itt is ordered that ye first classe be sent unto and enquirie made wt ꝑceedings have been there made wth Mr. Bridge, and whether they will further ꝑceed wth him as ye cause now stands.

4.—Ye ministers of Whitworth, Todmorden, Litlebrough are againe to be sum̄oned to appeare att ye next meeting.

5.—That there be a meeting of ye classe att Bury, upon Thursday, ye 3rd of January next, to consider what answer is to be made unto ye paper of Boulton eldrpp this day tendred to ye classe, that matters may be prepared for ye classe att ye next meeting, January ye 12th.

Ended wth prayer.

Mr. Alte, moderator ꝑ tempore.

39th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Class, January ye 12th 16$\frac{4}{5}\frac{9}{0}$.

Bury.

By Mr. Alte, Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scofield and Mr. Bradshaw, ministrs, wth ye assistance of Arthur Smithurst, John Kay, Adam ffearneside, Rog. Roscow, Rog. Walmesley, Hen. Hindley, Rich. Walker, Rich. Hardman, James Hardman, Peter Winstanley, ruleing elders.

1.—Mr. Picke, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Mr. Stott of Whitworth not appeareing, it is ordered that Wm. Holte, Esq., Justice of ye Peace, be desired to issue out his warrant to cause Mr. Stott to appeare before ye classe att there next meeting to deale wth him according to ordinance of parliament, and that ye rest of ye ministers formerly sumoned and not appeareing be againe sumoned, and that Mr. Bath be desired to deliver ye sumons to theire owne hands, or to such as will attest ye said sumons to be delivered.

3.—That an answer shall be drawne up to ye pap of Boulton eldrpp of December ye 10th agt ye next meeting, there to be read and signed, and thereto an admonition is to be subjoyned, and ye elderpp of Boulton to be sent for to receive ye sd answer and admonition.

4.—The next meeting to be feby ye 14th, 1649.

Ended wth prayer.

Tho. Picke, moderator p tempore.

40th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, feby. 14th, 16$\frac{4}{5}\frac{9}{0}$.

Bury.

By Mr. Alte, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scofield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministrs, Mr. Bath excused his absence, and with ye

assistance of James Leech, John Kay, Tho. Hamond, Rich. Bradshaw, Rob. ffogg, Rich. Walker, James Hardman, Tho. Leigh, Rich. Mather, Samuell Wild, ruleing eld^{rs}.

1.—Mr. Bradshaw, chosen moderator, begun wth prayer.

2.—Mr. Bradshaw, minist^{r} of Litlebrough, appeared and promised to ꝑcure and bring a certificate from y^{e} classe from whence he came ag^{t} y^{e} meeting of y^{e} classe in April next.

3.—A petition presented from Turton Congregation desireing that Mr. James Livesey might be there minister, y^{e} s^{d} Mr. Livesey also openly assenting thereto, whereupon y^{e} s^{d} Mr. Livesey is required to bringe in his testimoniall att y^{e} next meeting, and there to preach upon that text, I. Cor., 2, 2, before y^{e} classe when also further ꝑceedings shall be made towards ordination.

4.—That Mr. Holte or some other Justice of y^{e} Peace be desired by y^{e} moderator to issue out his warrant according to ordinance of parliam^{t} in that case provided to bring Mr. Stott of Whitworth and Mr. Core of Todmorden before y^{e} classe, who refuse to appeare upon sev^{r}all sum̄ons.

5.—Y^{e} busines of Mr. Pollitte to be enquired into y^{e} next meeting, March y^{e} 14th, and Mr. Livesey to be preacher.

Ended wth prayer.

Peter Bradshaw, moderator ꝑ tempore.

41st MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^{e} Second Classe, March y^{e} 14, $16\frac{4}{5}\frac{9}{0}$.

Bury.

By Mr. Harper, Mr. Bath, Mr. ffornise, Mr. Picke, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bradshaw, minist^{rs}, with y^{e} assistance of John Andrews, Rich. Medowcroft, Edmond Ogden, John Scofield, James Leech, Tho. Hamond, Charles Leigh, John Munkes, Richard Walker, Rob. ffogg, Peter Winstanley, ruleing elders.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator began w^th^ prayer.

2.—That Mr. Pollitt be sum̄oned to appeare att y^e^ next meeting to bring in his certificate that his business may be ended.

3.—Mr. Stott of Whitworth appeared, upon a warrant from Justice Holt, who said he was uncertified [unsatisfied] concerning y^e^ goverm^t^ presbyteriall, and being urged to come to argument either to oppose or answer, that satisfaction might be given him, he refused so to doe as also to performe such things as y^e^ ordinance of parl^mt^ requirith, and further carrieing himselfe contemptuously he departed without dismission. Itt is ordered that he bee ag^ne^ complained of to y^e^ Justice of Peace.

4.—Mr. Livesey this day preached before y^e^ classe and was well approved of, and thanked for his paines, also had his thesis given him, viz., *an datur nobis sufficiens auxilium ad salutem.*

5.—Boulton business w^th^ Richard Haywood to be first handled att y^e^ next meeting, viz., on y^e^ 11^th^ day of Aprill next. Mr. Tilsley to be y^e^ preacher.

Moderator ended w^th^ prayer.

Rob. Bath, moderator p̣ tempore.

42^nd^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, Aprill y^e^ 11^th^, 1650.

Bury.

By Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. ffornose, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, haveing y^e^ assistance of John Pendlebury, John Scholefield, Rich. Hardman, Rich. Walker, James Leech, Arth. Smithurst, Alexander Norris, John Okey, Peter Winstanley, ruleing elders.

1.—Mr. Tilsley, chosen moderator, begane w^th^ prayer.

2.—A classical meeting appointed to be att Boulton y^e^ 24^th^ day of Aprill next, to begin att ten a clock, when and where y^e^ paper in answer to the letter of Boulton, and also the admonition, are to be perused, approved of, and communicated to y^e^ eld^r^pp of Boulton.

3.—Mr. Livesey, according to appointm^t^, gave in his thesis w^ch^ was read and disputed upon as also ꝑceedings made to examination in y^e^ tongues and arts. Enquirey also made concerning his gratious qualification, in all w^ch^ he giveing good satisfaction, his ordination was resolved upon.[1]

[1] The substance of the following note, derived from the Thomasson Tracts in the British Museum, illustrates very suggestively the imperfect nature of the classis records. "*Several Proceedings in Parliament*," Thursday, 15–22 May, 1651 (Brit. Mus., E. $\frac{7}{28}$).

By a letter from Manchester in Lancashire, was advertised as followeth :

"Sir,—I sent you formerly a copy of a presbyterian order. The ministers here carry on very pontifically, and have preached the people into very great prejudices against the simple messengers of our Lord Jesus. But one, Mr. Hollingworth, the most eminent of them, was a little overtaken the last Lord's day thus :

The Major General having got some to preach in the great meeting place here the former day, and the morning of this Mr. Morgan Lloyd, there came few to hear but soldiery. But this Mr. Hollingworth desired he might doe his duty there the afternoon. It was graunted, and all the towne flocked to hear him. The Major General and Mr. Lloyd went also, but out of design, viz., when he had done, Mr. Lloyd took the opportunity of the great audience, and preached unto them the things of Christ most saintly and I hope successfully, though the priest was somewhat misled, and expressed himself in the close of all how ill he liked those ways.

Manchester, 29^th^ of the 2^nd^ month, 1651."

At a meeting of the Second Classis, 11 April, 1650.

Bury.

Whereas an order hath formerly passed, signed by the classis, that no known Independent, Arminian, Anabaptist, or Antinomian shall be permitted to preach in any of the congregations, which order is still judged necessary to be observed for the prevention of scandall and preservation of unity among us: it being also signified unto us, and by sundry probabilities made to appear that Mr. Ault of Bury, Peter Hoult, Esq., and Thomas Hamond, elders of the said congregation, some or all of them have attempted or consented unto and furthered the breach of the said order formerly, and also of late by procuring or consenting to procure and further the coming of two known Independents to exercise at Bury upon April 17, to the great affront of the peace of our churches : *We* do hereby admonish the persons abovesaid that they desist from such attempts, and see that the s^d^ order be carefully observed, and also to require

4.—The next monthly meeting to be appointed att Boulton, Aprill ye 24th.

Ended wth prayer.

John Tilsley, moderator p tempore.

43rd MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Class, May ye 9th, 1650.

Bury.

By Mr. Alte, Mr. Harper, Mr. Bath, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scofield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, wth ye assistance of Tho. Hamond, Arth. Smithurst, John Andrews, Rich. Medowcroft, Adam ffernside, Rich. Ogden, Roger Walmsley, John Munckes, Rob. ffogg, James Hardman ruleing elders.

1.—Mr. Picke, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—The deligates of ye elderpp of Boulton presented an appeale to ye next Provinciall Assembly wch was voted to be received and read, and also a paper of Rich. Haywood received and read, wch being judged impertinent to ye cause seeing an appeale was received, itt was returned to ye said Richard.

3.—The people of Horridge chappell signified their desire to have Mr. Pendlebury to be theire minister. The said Mr. Pendlebury also signified his williness to close wth them, where upon ye classe, desirous to hasten his ordination, willed him to pvide

them to doe their endeavures to prevent the coming of the said Independents lest disunion and discord be fomented amongst us, and also the neighbouring ministers who want to supply the exercise at Bury be discouraged to contribute their assistance, and this we have appointed to be shewed to the persons above mentioned, particularly by Mr. Bradshaw our Register, and by him to be returned to us.

Signed in the name of the Classis by John Tilsley, moderator pro tempore.

H. R.

S. E.

such certificates as were required, and to prepare his thesis, which was now given him, viz., *an fides sola justificat,* against y^e^ next meeting of y^e^ classe.

4.—Deligates appointed to attend y^e^ Provinciall Synod at Preston on y^e^ first Tuesday in June next, viz., Mr. Picke, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bradshaw, minist^rs^, Richard Bradshaw, Roger Walmesley, Rob. Hunt, Tho. Hamond, Rob. ffogg, James Hardman, Edm̄d Ogden or Samuell Wild, Peter Winstanley, ruleing eld^rs^.

5.—Advice to be desired att y^e^ Provinciall Synod w^t^ course is to be taken w^th^ ministers in our classe that submitt not to gov^r^mt.

6.—Mr. Pollitt to be sumoned to bring in his certificate att y^e^ next meeting, w^ch^ will be y^e^ 14^th^ day of June next. Mr. Harper to be y^e^ preacher.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Tho. Picke, moderator p̄ tempore.

44^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, July y^e^ 11^th^, 1650.

Bury.

By Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. ffornesse, Mr. Bradshaw, minist^rs^, haveing y^e^ assistance of Samuell Wild, Rich. Walker, Rich. Hardman, Arth. Smithurst, James Leech, Alexander Norris, John Okey, Tho. Leigh, Rob. Hunt, James Hardman, ruleing elders.

Mr. Goodwin deligated for Boulton appeared not, Mr. Horrockes absent, and Mr. Scholefield.

1.—Mr. ffurness, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—The order of y^e^ Provinciall Assembly concerning y^e^ appeale of y^e^ eld^r^pp of Boulton was read, wherein y^e^ said

assembly doth declare that they judge itt requisitt and therefore doe exhorte and require both y^e^ classicall presbytery and y^e^ congregationall elderpp of Boulton to withdraw and recall their respective proceedings and censures in y^e^ busines of Richard Haywood. The classe voted that they doe acquiesce in y^e^ s^d^ orders, and resolve to put in execution the respective injunctions in convenient tyme.

A coppie of y^e^ above s^d^ order was delivered to y^e^ delegates of Boulton eld^r^pp.

3.—Mr. Pendlebury appeared but brought not in his certificate of his takeing his degree in y^e^ university, of his honest life and conversation, and alsoe of his takeing y^e^ Nationall Covenant; whereupon he presented his thesis and held a dispute upon itt; afterwards he was examined in divinity, the arts and tongues, and enquirey made unto his gracious qualifications, in all w^ch^ he gave good satisfaction, and further he was required to bring in his said certificates in writeing att y^e^ next meeting, before w^ch^ time an Instrument is to be drawne up and fixe on y^e^ chappell dore of Horridge signifieing y^e^ resolution of y^e^ classe to ꝓceed to ordination if noe due exceptions be brought in att y^e^ next meeting.

4.—*Mr.*[1] *Bridges of Edenfield being complained of for goeing on to preach theire without approbation, and baptizeing children, being not an ordained minister. Ordered that he be sent for to appear att the next meeting.*

5.—Mr. Gilbody put in a petition desiring his sentence of suspension might be taken of, and also another petition from some of the inhabitants of Haslingden to y^e^ same purpose, but seeing complaint was made of sundry miscarrages since his

[1] At this point in the original Walker adds a marginal note. "Here insert what I separately transcribed at the end of p. 68." The passage referred to is verbatim minute 4 above. Evidently Walker collated the transcript made for him, detected an omission at this point, and caused the passage to be inserted at the end of the *MS.*, with this reference to it here. Page 68, now numbered p. 80 in the Walker *MS.*, is the last leaf of the transcript. The passage, as it occurs there, is *not* in Walker's abominable hand.

suspention, itt was answered unto him that untill he gave a reall testimony of his reformation, and made his actions and speeches agree, the classe could not recall their inhibition, yet gave him two months for further tryall.

6.—Ye next meeting to be August y^e^ 15^th^ next, and Mr. Harper to be y^e^ preacher.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Toby ffurnesse, moderator p̱ tempore.

45^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of the Second Classe, August y^e^ 15^th^, 1650.

Bury.

By Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. ffernesse, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, w^th^ John Andrews, Rich. Medowcroft, Giles Green and Charles Leigh, John Kay, Arth. Smithurst, Edm̄d Ogden, Rob. ffogg, ruleing eld^rs^.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator, began with prayer.

2.—Mr. Pendlebury appeared and brought in 3 certificates, one of his taking y^e^ Nationall Covenant, another of his honest life and conversation att y^e^ place where he did last officiate, a third of his takeing y^e^ degree of Batcho^r^ in Arts in y^e^ University of Cambridge. But because in this interime Mr. Livesey had consumated a marriage betwixt y^e^ said Mr. Pendlebury and one Sarah Smith clandestinely irregularly, therefore y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Pendlebury and Mr. Livesey are appointed to appeare againe att y^e^ next meeting.

3.—Mr. Bridges not appearing is againe to be summoned and notice given him that an inhibition will be issued out ag^t^ him ere long if he then appeare not, viz., the next meeting.

4.—Mr. Nuttall to be sent unto and desired to preach before y^e^ classe att there next meeting, w^ch^ will be y^e^ 12^th^ day of September, and then to be delt w^th^ about setting up y^e^ goverm^t^.

Rob. Bath, moderator p tempore.

46^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, Sept. 12^th^, 1650.

Bury.

By Mr. Bath, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Picke, Mr. ffurnesse, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers; also Wm. Scolefield, minist^r^. Having the assistance of Adam ffernside, Sam^l^ Wild, Rich. Walker, Rich. Hardman, James Leech, Arth. Smithurst, John Asley, Peter Winstanley, James Hardman, ruleing eld^rs^.

Mr. Tilsley sent his excuse for absence, w^ch^ was accepted. Mr. Bath suffered to departe about some occasions.

1.—Mr. Goodwin, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ordered that itt be signified in writeing unto Mr. Gilbody that for as much as he hath practised contrary to his promise made to y^e^ classe att his last appeareing, and in his carriage before y^e^ classe this day doth not give satisfaction that he is duely sensible of the miscarriages acknowledged in his petition; therefore y^e^ class cannot att present withdraw theire inhibition or suspension of him.

3.—Mr. Pendlebury is appointed to bring in a certificate to y^e^ classe at there next meeting und^r^ y^e^ hands of his owne and his wives parents testifieing there consent to y^e^ marriage betwixt them.

4.—Voted that y^e^ classe hath received satisfaction and acquiesceth in the acknowledgm^t^ of Mr. Pendlebury and Mr. Livesey concerning their irregular pceedings in y^e^ late clandestine marriage of Mr. Pendlebury.

5.—Delegates appointed to attend att y^e^ next Provinciall Assembly, Mr. Alte, Mr. Harper, Mr. Nuttall, minist^rs^, Wm. Holt, Esq., Rob. Hunt, John Munkes, John Ashley, Alexander Norris, James Hardman, ruleing elders.

6.—Mr. Bridge to appeare att y^e^ next meeting, w^ch^ will be Thursday, 10^th^ day of Octob^r^. Mr. Browne to be y^e^ preacher.

Ended with Prayer.

Rich. Goodwin, moderator p tempore.

47^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, October y^e^ 10^th^, 1650.

Bury.

By Mr. Bath, Mr. ffurnesse, Mr. Scofield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, w^th^ Alexander Norris, John Okey, James Leech, Arth. Smithurst, John Kay, Wm. Tonge, John Scholefield, Rog. Walmesley, and Peter Winstanley, ruleing elders.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ye ordination of Mr. Pendlebury and Mr. Livesey appointed to be att Turton chappell on Wednesday, y^e^ 23^rd^ day of this instant October, and that Mr. Harper and Mr. Goodwin agree togeather y^e^ one of them to preach. Mr. Tilsley to doe y^e^ rest of y^e^ worke, all y^e^ minist^rs^ of y^e^ classe to be present.

3.—Mr. Norris alledging necessary and urgent occasion that might prevent his attendance att y^e^ Province, Mr. Okey is therefore substitute in his stead.

4.—Next meeting on Thursday, November y^e^ 14^th^.

Rob. Bath, moderator p tempore.

48th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, November ye 14th, 1650.

Bury.

By Mr. Bath, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, Edmd Ogden, Rich. Walker, Rich. Mather, Giles Edge, James Leech, Arth. Smithurst, James Hardman, Rob. ffogg, Peter Winstanley, eldrs.

Mr. ffurnesse and Mr. Picke excused their absence; neither ministers nor eldrs from Boulton, nor any excuse made.

1.—Mr. Schofield, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Inquiry was made into ye ordination of Mr. Livesey and Mr. Pendlebury att Turton. Answer was made that ye ministers of Boulton ware absent on some occations, and Mr. Bradshaw preached in there stead. Mr. Tilsley did ye rest of ye worke. Mr. Pendlebury brought in his certificate concerning parants consent to ye marriage; the sd Mr. Pendlebury haveing given good satisfaction, as also Mr. Livesse, both in theire confession of faith and othr answers, were ordained with prayer and imposition of hands by Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. ffernesse, Mr. Scholefield, ministers.

3.—Ordered that Mr. Nuttall, Mr. Pendlebury, Mr. Livesey, be minded of the ordinance of parlimt, and incited to theire duty to sett up ye govrmt in theire sevrall congregations, with convenient speed wth[out] any allegation of theire uncertaine stay in theire places.

4.—A question propounded whether ye carrieing on of ye govrmt in particular congregations should be enquired into by ye classe att this time, or deferred unto ye next; resolved that itt be deferred, and bee ye first business enquired into att ye next meeting.

5.—Ordered that an instrumt be drawne up and sent to Boulton eldrpp, that seeing one of ye ministers of Boulton were delegated for ye Provincial Assembly and none of that eldrpp [were] att

that meeting to certifie y^e^ classe of [its] ꝑceedings, therefore y^e^ s^d^ elderpp are to send their deligates to y^e^ classe at their next meeting to shew cause of that absence this day, and to certifie what they can of proceedings att y^e^ Provinciall.

6.—Mr. Bridges againe sum̄oned, and next meeting December y^e^ 12^th^.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Jonathan Scofield, moderator ꝑ tempore.

49^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, Decemb^r^ 12^th^, 1650.

Bury.

By Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. ffornesse, Mr. Schofield, Mr. Bradshaw, minist^rs^, having y^e^ assistance of John Roscow, Rich. Walker, Rob. ffogg, Arth. Smithurst, James Leech, Tho. Browne, Zachary Bridge, John Andrewes, Richard Medowcroft, ruleing eld^rs^.

Noe minister from Boulton nor excuse from Mr. Hearper who was appointed.

1.—Mr. Picke, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ordered that seeing Mr. Bridge of Edenfield appeared not but onely signified that he was now allready gone from y^e^ place, neverthelesse an inhibition is to be issued out ag^t^ him to debare him from exercising any more, either att y^e^ s^d^ chapell or w^th^in y^e^ classe, till he give satisfaction for his long irregular ꝑceedings.

3.—Ordered that there be a new election of ruleing eld^rs^ for y^e^ congregation of Horridge.

4.—That sev^r^all sum̄ons be sent to Mr. Stott, Mr. Core, Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Pollitt.

5.—An admonition received from y^e^ Provinciall Assembly, passed by y^e^ s^d^ Assembly in June last. Itt is concluded and resolved that as y^e^ classe att a meeting in July last so att this tyme againe doth acquiesce in y^e^ s^d^ order of y^e^ Provinciall Synod, and that they doe with draw theire respective ꝑceedings and censure, and also pass by and bury y^e^ remembrance of all, and embrace in christian love, forbearance and reciprocall cōmunion.

6.—That y^e^ next meeting be on Thursday, y^e^ 9^th^ day of Jan., to meet att eleven. Mr. Goodwin to be y^e^ preacher.

Ended with prayer.

Tho. Picke, moderator ꝑ tempore.

50^th^ MEETING.

There mett att Bury on y^e^ 9^th^ day of Jany. [165$\frac{9}{1}$].

By Mr. Harp, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. Bradshaw, minist^rs^, also Rich. Bradshaw, Adam ffernesside, Edm̄d Ogden, Rob. ffogg, eld^rs^, but y^e^ number being incompetent, y^e^ assembly adjourned to Thursday, ffeb. y^e^ 13^th^.

51^st^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, feb. y^e^ 13^th^, 165$\frac{9}{1}$.

Bury.

By Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. ffernesse, Mr. Schofield, Mr. Bradshaw, minist^rs^, having y^e^ assistance of Rog. Walmesley, John Scofield, Rich. Walker, Rob. ffogg, James Leech, John Kay, John Okey, Peter Winstanley, ruleing eld^rs^

1.—Mr. Tilsley, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ordered that Mr. ffelgate be sent for to appeare before y^e^ classe att y^e^ next meeting to give satisfaction concerning his removall from his charge att Bradshaw chappell, and also concerning clandestine marriages reported to be made by him ; and [in] particular of y^e^ daught^r^ of Jam. Hilton of Boulton, reported by Mr. John Okey.

3.—That enquirie be made betwixt this and y^e^ next meeting by Mr. ffurnesse and Mr. Bradshaw into y^e^ carriage of Mr. Rothwell, minister, concerneing his making clandestine marriages and baptiseing children privately, and that a letter be drawne up by Mr. Bradshaw concerning y^e^ same and sent unto the classe to w^ch^ y^e^ s^d^ Mr. Rothwell doth belonge.

4.—Upon y^e^ question itt is resolved and voted that y^e^ classe doth finde it [not] convenient to continue constantly there meeting att Bury as formerly, for reasons now alleadged, but to remove to other places as occasion requires, because they did not pay there shott att Bury.

5.—That an instrum^t^ be drawen up and sent to Mr. Livesey, and another to Mr. Pendlebury, requireing them to hasten the election of eld^rs^ in theire congregations, and to bring them to y^e^ classe to be approved of att y^e^ next meeting.

6.—That Mr. Browne and Mr. Nuttall be sent for to appeare att y^e^ next meeting to give a finall answer and resolution concerning theire closeinge with there people yea or noe, and what they will doe in y^e^ goverm^t^.

7.—An inhibition to be prepared by y^e^ register ag^t^ Mr. Bridge, that itt may be seene and allowed att y^e^ next meeting.

8.—Next meeting at Boulton, March y^e^ 11^th^.

Mr. Goodwin, y^e^ preacher, ended with prayer,

John Tilsley, moderator p̄ tempore.

52nd MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classis, March ye 11th, 165$\frac{0}{1}$.

Bolton.

By Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scolefield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministrs, haveing ye assistance of Alexander Norris, John Andrews, John Crompton, Rich. Medowcroft, Giles Greene, Hen. Seddon, Petter Rylands, Rob. ffogg, Peter Winstanley, ruleing eldrs.

1.—Mr. Harper, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Mr. ffelgate, minister, appeareing, answered as to ye matter of his removeall from Bradshaw chappell that he had not a competent maintainence, nor had ye approbation of Mr. Bradshaw of Bradshaw for his continuance; also to ye busines of making clandestine marriages, he acknowledged that he had made one that was instanced in unto him, but excused himselfe that he knew not of ye rules in the Directory, yett promised to reforme for ye future. Ye classe considering thereof, answered that for ye present they could not allowe him any approbacõn to any place to which he would remove, and that ye classe would take some time for tryall of his reall reformation in ye premises, withall desireing him to acquaint himselfe with the rules of governmt and practice accordingly; otherwise in case of persisting in his irregularitys an inhibition would be issued out agt him.

3.—The busines of Mr. Rothwell being enquired into, itt was informed that he had made divers clandestine marriages, both about Bolton and Bury, and that he baptized children in private houses, and also itt is reported that he hath taken mony for baptising children, which probably may be made out. Ordered that ye first classis be certified thereof.

4.—The excuse of Nuttall, Mr. Pendlebury, Mr. Livesey for not setting up ye government was received, and there further answer was expected att theire next meeting.

5.—The inhibition of Mr. Bridge being ready drawen up was signed and resolved in the classe.

6.—That Mr. ffernesse, Mr. Picke, Mr. Bradshaw, or any two be appointed a committee to receive y^e^ original papers of y^e^ classe for two yeares past, and thereupon the same to be entered in y^e^ booke, and afterwards some fitt course taken to sattisfie y^e^ regester for his paines.

7.—That a note be drawne up and sent unto y^e^ congregation of Haywood to signifie unto them the desire of y^e^ classe that some of them would appeare att y^e^ next meeting to certifie of their closeing with Mr. Scolefield theire minister or not, otherwise he will receive admission by y^e^ classe.

8.—Next meeting att Boulton, Aprill y^e^ 8^th^, Mr. Pendlebury to be y^e^ preacher.

John Kay, moderator p tempore.

53^rd^ MEETING.

Boulton, Aprill 8^th^, 1651.

There appeared Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scolefield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, with Rich. Bradshaw, Rog. Walmsley, Tho. Leigh, John Ashley, Richard Hardman, Rob. ffogg, ruleing elders.

Mr. Bath, Mr. ffurnesse sent an apologie for theire absence.

Theire not being a competent number to act, y^e^ assembly prorogued there meeting till May 13^th^, Mr. ffogg to preach.

54^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, May y^e^ 13^th^, 1651.

Bolton.

By Mr. Bath, Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Picke, Mr. ffogg, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, haveing y^e^ assistance of John

Scolefield, Alex. Norris, John Okey, John Crompton, Adam ffernesides, Rog. Walmesley, Hen. Mollinix, John Ashley, Rich. Hardman, Rob. ffogg, Peter Winstanley, eld^{rs}; also James Hardman and James Leech, ruling eld^{rs}.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—According to former order Mr. Picke, Mr. ffornice, Mr. [Bradshaw], shall take view of y^{e} originall writeings of y^{e} classe which are not yet entered, and appointe a tyme for itt that itt may be ready ag^{t} y^{e} next meeting, and order taken to satisfie y^{e} register.

3.—Mr. ffogg of Midleton appeared and made his excuse for not preaching this day which was excepted, especially seeing he was prepared and purposed to preach (notwithstanding his former answer), but that anoth^{r} was provided.

4.—That Mr. Ashton of Midleton be sent for to appeare before y^{e} classe, and that he be delt with concerning setting up y^{e} goverm^{t} att Midleton wth y^{e} assistance of Mr. ffogg, y^{e} present minister.

5.—Mr. Pendlebury of Horridge excused his not present execu$\tilde{c}$o$\tilde{n}$ of y^{e} classis orders for setting up y^{e} gov^{r}m^{t} in his congregation, [alledging in excuse] that he was endeavoringe in his publicke ministry to prepare his people, and desires respite till y^{e} next meeting, w^{ch} was granted.

6.—Mr. Hall this day preached, and, together wth Mr. Crompton, desired ordination by this classis: they had either of them a thesis propounded to them, viz., to Mr. Hall, *num publice p̃phetandi potestas sit ex dono vel officio*, and to Mr. Crompton, *num sola fides justificat*, and y^{e} class resolved in y^{e} case of Mr. Hall to consult wth some neighbore classe or y^{e} provinciall whether ordination may passe upon any without a p̃ticular call from some congregation.

7.—Delegates appointed for y^{e} Provinciall Assembly: Mr. Bath, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Pendlebury, ministers, wth Henry Hinlay, Charles Leigh, Alexander Norris, John Andrews, Edm̄d Ogden, Rich. Hardman.

8.—The next meeting to be on y^e^ second Tuesday in June next, Mr. Crompton the expectant to be y^e^ preacher.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Rob. Bath, moderator p tempore.

55^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, June y^e^ 10^th^, 1651.

Boulton.

By Mr. Harper, Mr. Tillsley, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scolefield, Mr. ffurnes, minist^rs^, haveing the assistance of Alex. Norris, John Okey, Rich. Medowcroft, Wm. Tonge, John Roscow, Rich. Walker, Rob. ffogg, James Hardman, Sam^l^ Wild, Peter Winstanley, ruleing eld^rs^.

1.—Mr. ffurnesse, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—That y^e^ register drawe up an exhortation in y^e^ name of y^e^ classe, and send itt to y^e^ minist^r^ and congregation of Midleton to excite and quicken them to sett up y^e^ gov^r^m^t^ amongst them according to ordinance of parlam^t^ on that behalfe and exhortation of y^e^ Provinciall Synod.

3.—Further tyme allowed to Mr. Pendlebury for setting up y^e^ gov^r^m^t^ att Horridge.

4.—Mr. Crompton brought in his thesis w^ch^ was approved; shewed his presentation to y^e^ parish church of Raustorne in Cheshire, by y^e^ Cañons of Christ Church in Oxon, dated March y^e^ 12, 165$\frac{9}{1}$; he brought in likewise a certificate from y^e^ people of Rawstorne parish of theire approving and likeing of him to be theire minister.

5.—Mr. Hall brought in his thesis, and he and Mr. Crompton being examined were approved of.

6.—Mr. Tilsley appointed to advise w^th^ y^e^ first classe whether we [may] conveniently [becomingly] ordain *sine titulo.*

7.—Next meeting on Wednesday, July y^e^ ninth, Mr. ffogg to preach.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Toby ffernesse, moderator p̄ tempore.

56^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, July y^e^ 9^th^, 1651.

Bolton.

By Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bath, Mr. Scolefield, and Mr. Bradshaw, minist^rs^, with Alex^r^ Norris, John Okey, Adam ffernesside, Rog. Walmesley, Rich. Mather, Peter Winstanley, ruleing elders.

1.—Mr. Tilsley, moderat^r^, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Y^e^ exhortation drawne up by y^e^ register was read and approved of; it is ordered that itt be sent unto them att Midleton, and y^e^ minist^r^ desired to acquaint y^e^ congregation thereof publickly.

3.—That Mr. Hall bring a certificate from and und^r^ y^e^ hands of Mr. Crompton and y^e^ people of Rawstorne, desireing him to be assistant in y^e^ s^d^ congregation, and y^e^ same to present unto y^e^ minist^rs^ on y^e^ day of ordination, otherwise not to p̄ceed.

4.—That Thursday, y^e^ 17^th^ day of July instant, be y^e^ day for ordination of Mr. Hall and Mr. Crompton att Bolton. Mr. Bath and Mr. Picke to be preacher, Mr. Harper to give y^e^ exhortation. All y^e^ ministers of y^e^ classe [to be] present.

5.—Tuesday, y^e^ 12^th^ day of August, y^e^ next meeting att Boulton. Mr. Schofield to be preacher.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

John Tilsley, moderator p̄ tempore.

57th MEETING.

August 12th day [1651] there ware mett att Boulton.

Mr. Harper, Mr. Picke, Mr. ffornesse, Mr. Schofield, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, with Rich. Medowcroft, John Okey, Adam ffearneside, Rob. ffogg, Giles Edge, John Pendlebury, ruleing eldrs.

But ye number not being sufficient ye classe adjourned till Tuesday, ye 9th day of Sept. next. And now the classicall meeting began to faile more ordinarily, and chiefly through defaulte of ruleing eldrs, so that no full assembly could be gott untill ye 9th day of ffeb., in ye yeare 165½.

58th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, ffeb. ye 9th, 165½.

Bolton.

By Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Picke, Mr. Pendlebury, Mr. Bradshaw, haveing ye assistance of Rog. Walmsly, Hen. Seddon, John Ashley, Rob. ffogg, Tho. Browne, Rich. Medowcroft, John Crompton, Rich. Bradshaw, Adam ffearnside, ruling eldrs.

1.—Mr. Picke, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Ordered that seeing one Mr. Hilton tooke upon him to exercise in publick att Blackrode and Horridge, and is removed into another classe upon our sumons, he being a man very insufficient and unworthy, itt is thought meete to certifie ye same unto that classe, and that ye Register take care thereof.

3.—That wheras ye sd Wm. Hilton did pretend to baptize some children in one or both places, itt is resolved upon the question that ye sd baptisme is null. Yet itt is thought convenient that Mr. Picke consult ye first classe about the baptisme of such children.

4.—That seeing Mr. Livesey desires administory [*sic*, for "dismissory," perhaps] certificate into y^e^ 4^th^ classe, it's thought meet to send to y^e^ people of Turton, where he did lately officiate, to know upon what grounds he removed from them, and what his carrage amongst them, and Mr. Livesey is enjoyned to ꝑcure and present such certificate to y^e^ classe att theire next meeting.

5.—Mr. Pendlebury made knowen his grounds, and shewed y^e^ cause of his removall from Horridge, which were satisfactory to y^e^ classe, and his closeinge with y^e^ people of Holcome approved of.

6.—The next meeting to be this day 5 weeks, March 15^th^.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Tho. Picke, moderator ꝑ tempore.

59^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, March y^e^ 15, 165½.

Bolton.

By Mr. Harper, Mr. Bath, Mr. Picke, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, haveing y^e^ assistance of John Okey, Rich. Bradshaw, Adam ffernesidc, John Scolefield, Rich. Walker, Rob. ffogg, and Hen. Seddon, Giles Greene, ruleing eld^rs^.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Ordered that the Provinciall Assembly bee consulted aboute the baptisme of children baptized by non-minist^rs^.

3.—That Mr. Leigh of Ashworth be sent for to appeare att y^e^ next meeting.

4.—Mr. Ashton of Midleton sent for to appeare att y^e^ next meeting att Bury.

5.—Deligates appointed for y^e^ Provinciall Assembly: Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, ministers; John Okey, Alex. Norris, Hen.

Mollinex, Wm. Tonge, Rob. ffogg, James Hardman, Peter Winstanley, ruleing eld^rs^, to be att Preston on y^e^ second Tusday in May next.

6.—Next meeteing to be att Bury upon y^e^ second Thursday in Aprill next, 1652.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Rob. Bath, moderator p tempore.

60^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, Aprill y^e^ 8^th^, 1652.

Bury.

By Mr. Bath, Mr. Scholefield, Mr. ffurness, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, haveing y^e^ assistance of John Scolefield, James Hardman, Arth. Smithurst, John Kay, John Andrews, Rich. Medowcroft, ruleing eld^rs^.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Mr. Ashton of Midleton appeared and was conferred with about administring the Supper in his congregation without due order [taken concerning admission thereto]: is disallowed by y^e^ classe and endeavo^r^ used to reclaime him from y^e^ same, and prevent itt for y^e^ future.

3.—A delegation issued out for members of the Provinciall Assembly formerly nominated.

4.—The next meeting appointed to be att Bury, on y^e^ 13^th^ day of May next.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Rob. Bath, moderator p tempore.

61st MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, June ye 10th, 1652.

Bury.

By Mr. Alte, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scolefield, Mr. Pendlebury, Arth. Smithurst, John Kay, Rob. fogg, Tho. Browne, Zachary Bridge, Adam ffernesside.

1.—Mr. Picke, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—Mr. Oliver Heywood presented his desire to be ordained a preaching presbyter, for that he hath a call unto ye church att Coley in Yorkeshire. He was required to bring his letters testimoniall from ye university, a certificate concerning his conversation and of his call to ye sd people. His thesis was given, viz., *an pædobaptismus sit licitus*, and also this text to preach upon, Rom., 10, 14, "how shall they preach," etc.

3.—Next meeting att Bury, July ye 15th next.

Ended wth prayer.

Tho. Picke, moderator p tempore.

62nd MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, July ye 15th, 1652.

Bury.

By Mr. Bath, Mr. Alte, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Picke, Mr. Scolefield, Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Pendlebury, ministers, haveing ye assistance of Arth. Smithurst, John Kay, John Ashley, Rog. Walmesley, John Scolefield, Alex. Norris, John Okey, Adam ffernesside, Rich. Walker, Rich. Hardman, Zachary Bridge, Peter Winstanley, eldrs.

1.—Mr. Tilsley, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Mr. Smith brought in a dismission from y^e^ 4^th^ classe, dated May y^e^ 3^rd^, 1652, w^ch^ also commends him for a godly and orthodox minister. Itt was subscribed, Robt. Yates, Rich. Maudsley.

3.—Mr. Oliver Haywood ꝑduced letters testimoniall of his takeing y^e^ degree of Bachelor of Arts in Trinity Collidge in Cambridge, and of his honest, sober and studious carriage during his abode there, also another certificate of his sober, blameles, and pious conversation dureing y^e^ time he hath beene att Coley, [of his] faire call to that place, and theire desire to have him become there minister. He preached upon y^e^ text appointed, brought in his thesis with examination, and gave satisfaction, whereupon the classe concluded on his ordination to be att Bury upon Wednesday, y^e^ 4^th^ day of August next. Mr. Bath or Mr. Scolefield to pray, Mr. Alte to preach, Mr. Tilsley to give y^e^ exhortation.

4.—Ended with prayer.

John Tilsley, moderator ꝑ tempore.

63^rd^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, Sept. 23^rd^, 1652.

Bury.

By Mr. Alte, Mr. Bath, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Picke, Mr. Bradshaw, ministers, haveing y^e^ assistance of Arth. Smithurst, Rich. Medowcroft, John Andrews, Rich. Bradshaw, Adam ffearneside, Rich. Walker, ruleing eld^rs^.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—Deligats appointed to attend y^e^ Provinciall Assembly att Preston upon Tuesday, 8^ber^ 5^th^ next, viz., Mr. Bath, Mr. Harper, Mr. Bradshaw, minist^rs^, w^th^ Rog. Walmesley, Wm. Tonge,

Samuell Wild, Rich. Bradshaw, Adam Ferneside, Tho. Brown, ruleing eld^rs.

3.—Ended with prayer.

Robt. Bath, moderator p tempore.

64th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of the Second Classe, July y^e 18th, 1653.

Bolton.

Members of y^e classe then and there present: Mr. Harper, Mr. Picke, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Smith, ministers, with Mr. Medowcroft, Mr. Okey, Adam fferneside, Rich. Bradshaw, Rog. Walmesley, Rich. Mather, John Ashley, Rich. Walker, Rob. fogg, ruleing eld^rs.

1.—Mr. Tilsley, chosen moderator, began with prayer.

2.—Mr. Smith of Turton signified to y^e classe his people's desire to have y^e Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in that congregation, there being no eldershipp there constitute. Itt is concluded upon debate, and accordingly recomended to him by Mr. Smith, as y^e best and most seasonable expedient that y^e congregation pceed to elect an elderpp, and gett the same constitute among them in order to y^e Lord's Supper and all other points of requisite discipline in that congregation.

3.—Information being given to y^e classe of a published intent to have y^e Sacram^t of the Lord's Supper att Bradshaw chappell administred by Mr. Bankes, who att present preacheth there, itt is concluded that Mr. Harper, together with Mr. Alex. Norris and Mr. Okey, do repaire to Bradshaw Hall, and endeavour both with Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Bankes to prevent the inconvenience of a promiscuous Sacram^tt there, and in case they cannot prevaile w^th them Mr. Harper is by this classe desired and authorised to interpose in y^e s^d chappell on y^e day appointed, for y^e prevention thereof.

4.—Mr. Taylor signifieing the want of a competent number of eld^rs^ in y^e^ congregation at Cockey, by the decease of some of that number, and that one onely survived, it was recommended to y^e^ care and endeavo^r^ of Mr. Taylor to stirre up y^e^ people to a further choyce, that so y^e^ elderpp may be compleated.

5.—The classe adjourned till August 15^th^, to meet again att Boulton.

Ended with prayer.

John Tilsley, moderator p tempore.

65^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of y^e^ Second Classe, August y^e^ 15^th^, 1653.

Boulton.

Members of y^e^ classe then and there present: Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Picke, Mr. fforness, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Smith, Mr. Pendlebury, ministers, haveing y^e^ assistance of Giles Greene, Rob. ffogg, Thomas Browne, Rog. Walmesley, Peter Rylands, Hen. Seddon, John Andrews, John Crompton.

1.—Mr. Tilsley, chosen moderator, began with prayer.

2.—Mr. Harper returned an answer to y^e^ classe of what he had done in y^e^ business concerning Mr. Bankes, now preacher att Bradshaw chappell, who being desired in a brotherly way, (1) of his call unto y^e^ ministery, (2) of his call unto that place, (3) of y^e^ course he was about to take in a promiscuous admitting of all to y^e^ Sacram^t^ of y^e^ Lord's Supper. He gave a light and not satisfactory answer to y^e^ two first, sleighting also y^e^ power of y^e^ classe, and concerning y^e^ third, expressed his resolution to goe on in y^e^ promiscuous admittance, whereuppon:

3.—Mr. Tilsley was desired by y^e^ classe to advise w^th^ y^e^ first classe of y^e^ course which was to be taken in the busines, since they had to do latly in a case of like nature touching Mr. Lake of Ouldham, etc.

4.—Mr. Picke was desired to goe to Justice Hopwood to know his opinion tuching y^e^ power of that ordinance upon w^ch^ (for matt^rs^ of the civil sanction) y^e^ classe did act, as also to know whether Mr. Hopwood (in case y^e^ classe did sumon Mr. Bankes and he refuse to appeare) would ꝑceed according to that ordinance.

5.—The classe adjourned till Sept. y^e^ 19^th^.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Zachary Taylor.

66^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting of the Second Classe, Oct. 17^th^, 1653.

Bolton.

There appeared Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Smith, ministers, w^th^ John Okey, John Crompton, Rich. Bradshaw, Adam ffearneside, Rog. Walmesly, John Ashley, Jam. Edge, Rich. Mather, eld^rs^.

1.—John Harper, chosen moderator, began with prayer.

2.—Ordered by y^e^ classe that sumons be sent to Mr. Banks of Bradshaw, to appeare before y^e^ classe att Boulton upon y^e^ 14^th^ of November next.

3.—Y^e^ classe adjourned till y^e^ day aforesaid.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

John Harper, moderator ꝑ tempore.

67th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe, November ye 14th, 1653.

Bolton.

Appeared Mr. Bath, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Harper, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Scolefield, ministers, haveing ye assistance of Mr. Rog. Walmesley, Mr. John Okey, Mr. Mollinex, Adam ffernesside, Rich. Bradshaw, John Munkes, Hen. Seddon, John Schofield, and Rob. fogg, eldrs.

1.—Mr. Bath, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—The appeale of James Edge, Hulton, from ye eldershipp of Deane's sentence of suspention was brought to ye classe and accepted, and the further debate of itt reserved to another time.

3.—Delegats appointed for ye Provinciall Assembly, Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Smith, ministers, Roger Walmesley, Hen. Mollinex, Charles Leigh, Peter Rylands, John Pendlebury, John Munkes, John Andrews, Adam ffernside.

4.—The classe adjourned till Novber 21.

Ended with prayer.

Rob. Bath, moderator p tempore.

68th MEETING.

Att a Meeting of ye Second Classe att Boulton, Novber 21, 1653.

There appeared Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Smith, ministers, wth Mr. Andrews, Mr. Okey, Rich. Mather, Jon Ashley, Peter Winstanley, Rob. ffogg, Adam ffearneside, Rich. Hardman, ruleing eldrs.

1.—Mr. Smith, chosen moderator, began wth prayer.

2.—For further enquiry into ye busines of James Edge, who

latly appeared to y^e^ classe, itt is thought fitt to send to Ralph Mather and John Edge to appeare att y^e^ next meeting.

3.—The classe adjourned till December 19^th^.

Ended with prayer.

Tim Smith, moderator.

69^th^ MEETING.

Att a Meeting att Boulton of y^e^ Second Classe, Dec. 19, 1653.

There appeared Mr. Harper, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Smith, ministers, having the assistance of Rog. Walmesley, John Andrews, Adam ffierneside, Peter Winstanley, John Ashley, Rob. ffogg, Rich. Bradshaw, John Edge, ruleing eld^rs^.

1.—Mr. Taylor, chosen moderator, began w^th^ prayer.

2.—John Edge, y^e^ brother of James Edge, according to appointment appeared and confessed that he went to James Aspinall behind Wigan but itt was of his owne accord, his brother neither requesting him so to doe nor knoweing of his doing.

3.—Mr. Tho. Isherwood appeared and desired to be ordained a pastor of y^e^ church of Blackrode, and was by y^e^ classe appointed to preach before them on Monday, Jan. 16^th^ next, and then to bring with him such testimonialls as are required of such as are to be ordained.

4.—The classe adjourned till Jan. 16^th^.

Ended w^th^ prayer.

Zachary Taylor, moderator p tempore.

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